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NOTES ON
CAITHNESS FAMILY HISTORY

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CAITHNESS
FAMILY HISTORY

By JOHN HENDERSON, W.S.

EDINBURGH: DAVID DOUGLAS

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EDITOR'S NOTE.

THESE notes on Caithness Family History are given to the public as left by the author, and the Editor desires to thank those friends who, by their advice, have aided in the preparation of the book for the press.

The Editor also wishes gratefully to acknowledge the courtesy of the Earl of Caithness in permitting the use of the arms of his ancestor, George, fourth Earl of Caithness, and his wife, Lady Elizabeth Graham, daughter of the Earl of Montrose, copied from an old carving in Barrogill Castle, which form the vignette on the title-page; and the valuable assistance most kindly rendered by Mr. Burnett, Lyon King of Arms, in revising the work, and enriching it with notes (printed within brackets), which elucidate or confirm the text.

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

It may not be considered inappropriate to preface the "Notes of Caithness Family History" now published by a brief sketch of their author.

John Henderson was descended from the Brabster-dorran branch of the Caithness Hendersons. Of his grandfather's three sons, two were, like himself, long and intimately associated with the public business of their native county.

Captain John Henderson, the eldest of the brothers, after serving in the Caithness Fencibles during the Irish Rebellion, spent his later years at Castlegreen, Thurso, which he built. He died there in 1828, aged sixty-nine. He was for many years factor on the Ulbster estates, and was the first agent in Thurso for the Commercial Bank of Scotland. In 1812 he published a "General View of the Agriculture of Caithness," the first family contribution to the annals of the county, and a work of considerable interest. He married Jane, daughter of Captain William Maclean of the 40th Regiment, and his wife, Mary, daughter of John Sutherland of Forse. The only sur-

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vivor of their family is Major-General William Henderson, R.A.

William, the second brother, and father of the subject of this notice, after an extended legal practice in Thurso, and also acting as factor on many estates in the county, was appointed Sheriff-Substitute of Caithness, an office which he held until his death in 1826, aged fifty-eight. He was proprietor of the estate of Scotscalder, which he bought from Captain Balfour. He married Anne, daughter of Patrick Brodie, Esq. Of four deceased sons of their large family, the eldest, Dr. Patrick, was the author of an unpublished "History of Caithness," and several other works. John was the second son. Alexander, the third, succeeded his uncle, Captain John, as agent for the Commercial Bank in Thurso. The fourth, Dr. William, was a distinguished physician and Professor of General Pathology in the University of Edinburgh.

James, the third of the brothers, was Captain in the Ross-shire Militia. He married Eliza, daughter of Sir Edmund Lacon, Bart., who, with their only child, predeceased him. He died in 1825, aged fifty-five.

John Henderson was born in the old house of Ormlie, near Thurso, on the 21st December 1800. He received his early education in his native town, and subsequently attended Tain Academy, concluding his academical career at the University of Aberdeen. On leaving Aberdeen he served his apprenticeship in the office of Mr. Inglis, W.S., and after completing his legal studies, was admitted Writer

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to the Signet in 1824. Circumstances led him to decide upon commencing business in Wick, where he settled in 1828. He there received the appointment of Procurator-Fiscal, which he retained until his removal to Thurso in 1852. He afterwards held all the important county appointments, and in addition to these a large number of factorships. His resignation of the Freswick factorship in 1879 terminated a business connection between the proprietors of these estates and his family of more than sixty years. And at different periods Mr. Henderson was also factor on the Hempriggs, Thrumster, Forse, Brabster, Lochend, Forss, and Rattar estates.

In 1852 he removed to Thurso to take up, on his brother Alexander's retirement, the agency of the Commercial Bank, which he held until his death. He was for many years an elder in the parish church of Thurso, and was an attached but not sectarian member of the Church of Scotland.

In 1829 he married his cousin, Barbara, daughter of William Henderson, Esq., Edinburgh, and sister of John Henderson, the first Queen's Remembrancer. She was in all respects worthy of her husband, and her death, in 1859, threw an abiding shadow over his remaining years.

During his long life Mr. Henderson had seen many and great changes pass over the community to which he belonged. The world into which he was born was, he used to say, a different one from that of his later years.

As a boy he had worshipped in the ancient and now

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ruined parish church of St. Peter, and remembered its curiously painted wood-work and quaint galleries and pews; and he had heard the "dead-bells" tolled before the coffin, as funerals passed down to the old churchyard. Little of the New Town of Thurso was then built, and thatch prevailed more than slates on the roofs of the houses which did exist. In these days the citizens' cows grazed on the "common" pasture-ground; were gathered in the evening on the "Clingrag" (or Lingering) Hill, and conducted collectively to the entrance of the main street, whence each animal sedately took her way to her own place of abode. He remembered the annual game of "knotty," which took place on New-Year's day on the sands of Thurso, below the long "links," which have now disappeared; the regularly recurring faction fights on the market-days at which he and his companions delightedly "assisted"; and the cock-fights which the schoolboys were encouraged to promote, the winning bird being always considered a perquisite of the Master. He recollected the arrival of the news of the battle of Salamanca, and other victories of the Peninsular war. These were events of moment to Caithness wives and mothers, for above two thousand Caithness recruits were "attested" during that period, and the Williamsons, Inneses, and Davidsons lost more than one gallant soldier-son at Fuentes de Onoro,—the storming of Ciudad Rodrigo; Salamanca, and the siege of Burgos. He used to tell of the rejoicings for the battle of Waterloo, when a Thurso

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bailie, who had vowed never to change his wig while Bonaparte retained power, came down from his house, and preceded by the town-piper, and followed by his maid-servant bearing a new wig under her apron, marched three times round the bon-fire in MacDonald Square, and at the end of the last circuit threw the time-honoured head-gear into the flames.

His journeyings to and from his father's house and Edinburgh were chiefly performed on board the coasting vessels, which were then the most available means of communication between North and South. The fort-night's voyage between Thurso and Leith was sometimes exceeded by days, or even weeks; and on one occasion, in consequence of an unusually prolonged detention, the passengers and crew of the "John o' Groat" were constrained to consume the gifts of Caithness geese, and other Christmas fare, which were on their way from "country cousins" to expectant, but disappointed recipients in the Scottish capital.

During his later years Mr. Henderson gradually resigned the various appointments which he had retained during his residence in Thurso, except the bank agency; and his well-earned time of comparative rest was spent in the retirement of his much-loved home at Ormlie. During those years the volume of "Notes," which had been gradually growing beneath his hand, received many additions. Its compilation had long afforded him an object of interest external to the engrossing cares of

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business, and the unwearied trouble he took in verifying every detail, and inserting only what he believed to be absolutely accurate, was characteristic.

In the spring of 1883 his health began to fail, and gradually increasing illness terminated in his death on the 25th of August of the same year.

To one who best knew him in the daily intercourse of a home-life full of sacred memories, it is not easy to estimate, as a whole, such a life as his. The worthy inheritor of a name associated with just, honourable, and upright lives, his public duties were discharged with unvarying faithfulness and punctuality. In his many factorships he always knew how to combine the interests of his clients with the well-being of the tenantry. A singular youthfulness, purity, and guilelessness of nature remained with him throughout his life, a clear and strong intellect enabled him to grasp and master every subject to which he applied himself, and an earnest love of truth and thirst after knowledge led to an unceasing pursuit of both. Like most men of well-balanced character, he had a strong sense of humour. His judgment of men and things was ever sound, calm, just, and charitable, and in his nature assumption and self-seeking found no place.

The words of one who knew him well may most fitly close this brief record of his life :—" His sterling, reliable character, his manly straight-forward way of doing business, his quiet but firm manner, his kindly consideration for many a poor man struggling with difficulties, gained

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for him, as a business man, a place which business men rarely attain to in the hearts of the people. . . . As one who felt it a privilege to know and love him, I would like to pay a tribute to his memory by pointing out, what was indeed apparent to all, that the singular success of his career was due not merely to his natural disposition and manner, but to what the grace of God had made him as a Christian man. He had learned the secret of doing his work in all the variety of his offices 'as to the Lord, and not to man;' and on this, as the foundation principle of all his dealings with men, was built a business life rarely equalled in its usefulness. . . . His death was, like his life, a humble and unquestioning profession of his faith in his Redeemer. He had 'finished his course,' he had 'kept the faith;' and when death came, it came to one who, through the grace of God preparing him for it, had nothing to do but to die."

Fear no more the heat o' the sun,
Or the furious winter's rages,
Thou thy worldly task hast done,
Home art gone, and ta'en thy wages.

A. B. H.

Ormlie Lodge, Thurso,
February 5th, 1884.

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AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

It may be proper to state that the object I have had in view in the following Notes has not been to collect materials for a County Genealogy brought down to the present time, but to preserve notices, now generally forgotten, of the older families connected with the County, and now, in many instances, extinct. The Notes were commenced many years ago, and have been continued as opportunities of adding to them occurred, and every care has been taken to render them accurate, the sources of information having been County and other records, title-deeds of landed property, and, as far as possible, family documents. The materials here collected may be of use to future inquirers.

JOHN HENDERSON.

Ormlie Lodge,
Thurso, 1882.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE EARLDOM OF CAITHNESS, although said to be traditionally of great antiquity, does not appear on record until 1129, in which year Mac William, designated Earl of Caithness, occurs in a charter by King David I. to the Monastery of Dunfermline. From the period of this Earl's death in 1160, down to 1455, the dignity was held by seven different Earls, the last of whom, Sir George Crichton, Lord High Admiral, was created Earl of Caithness in 1450. Upon his death in 1455, the earldom was granted to William St. Clair, Earl of Orkney, by whose lineal descendants it is still enjoyed.

What territorial rights in the county were possessed by the Caithness Earls before the St. Clairs, it is difficult to say, but it is improbable that the repeated grants of the earldom by the Crown carried nothing except the barren dignity, and it is certain that about 1373 David Stewart, Earl of Strathearne and Caithness, obtained from his father, King Robert II., the castle of Braal and lands thereof; and that in 1452 Sir George Crichton,

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the eighth Earl, obtained from James II. the lands of Braal, Dunbeath, Latheronwheel, and Watten.

William St. Clair's charter from James II. in 1455 conveyed to him generally "Commitatum nostrum de Caithness cum titulis de Carnoch et Eminavir cum pertinentiis et aliis pertinentiis dicti commitatus," and the estate so granted was declared to be a free barony.

In 1476 James III. granted to William St. Clair, second Earl of this family, a charter of the lands of the earldom, on the resignation of his father, with the patronage of the Hospital or Church of St. Magnus, at Spittal. A hospital, of what nature is unknown, was connected with this church, of which considerable ruins, together with its cemetery, still remain. The cemetery was the burial-place of the Clan Gunn. The patronage was retained by the Caithness family until at least as late as 1644, when George, Earl of Caithness, was served heir therein to his father, John, Master of Berriedale. The settlement of the earldom by the first Earl was no more than a common conveyance of the *lands*, and yet the dignity as well as the estate was enjoyed by his third son, although the title is not even mentioned, and no new creation by patent was issued, and both descended to his heirs. On the resignation of his grandson, George, a new Crown charter was granted to John, his eldest son, by which the dignity was limited to heirs-male, to the exclusion of heirs-general.

In 1527 William, eldest son of John, third Earl,

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obtained a Crown charter of Murkle, Thurso, and adjacent lands. Murkle probably formed part of the earldom before the accession of the St. Clairs, as John, an Earl of Caithness in 1297, there swore fealty to King Edward I.

The lands of the earldom were undoubtedly greatly extended by the family of St. Clair, and included, at one period, either in property or superiority, the larger portion of the county. The prosperity of the earldom reached its climax under George, the fourth Earl, and its decline commenced through the improvidence of his grandson and successor, George, fifth Earl. In the time of his great-grandson, George, sixth Earl, the estates had become so burdened with debt that he sold them in 1672 to his principal creditor, Lord Glenorchy, and by him and his successors all that remained of the family possessions was sold,—the then holders of many of the wadsets, with which the earldom was burdened, having become purchasers of the several lands possessed by them. In 1719 the Earl of Breadalbane sold to John Sinclair of Ulbster his remaining claims on and rights in the estates of the Caithness family, and Ulbster thereafter sold one-half of his purchase to Sir James Sinclair of Dunbeath.

George Sinclair of Keiss, the seventh Earl, had a very small estate, and none of the families of Murkle, Rattar, and Mey, to which the succession to the title opened successively after the death of the seventh Earl, had large patrimonial possessions. The barony of Mey

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was, in 1566, acquired from the Bishop of Caithness by the then Earl of Caithness.

It has been considered unnecessary to trace the ancestry of the family of St. Clair from the period of the Norman Baron, who obtained Roslyn from King David I., and these notes are confined to the descendants of William of Roslyn, third Earl of Orkney and first of Caithness. William, only son of his first marriage, was the ancestor of the family of Lords Newburgh and Sinclair, and his son Henry was, in 1488-89, by a special and singular Act of Parliament, declared to be "chief of his blood." This family had the lands of Dysart and Ravensheugh in Fife, and is now represented, in the female line, by Mr. Anstruther Thomson of Charlton, and the Earl of Roslyn, the male line having ended in the person of John, seventh Lord Sinclair, who died in 1676. The male line of Sir Oliver of Roslyn, eldest son of Earl William's second marriage, terminated in 1778, on the death of William Sinclair, then of Roslyn, and the representation of the family is claimed by the Chevalier Enrico Ciccopieri, a major in the Italian service. The chevalier has been served by the Sheriff of Chancery heir of line of Colonel James St. Clair, who died in 1807, since which time the representation had been in abeyance. Both the elder branches of St. Clair of Roslyn having thus failed, in the *male* line, the representation is undoubtedly vested in the present Earl of Caithness.

In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries land-

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holders of the name of Sinclair were numerous, both as proprietors and wadsetters. In Calder's History of Caithness it is said that the family of Sinclair of Dun came into Caithness in 1379; but no evidence has been discovered of any of the name of Sinclair having settled in the county until the accession to the earldom in 1456, of William, Earl of Orkney; nor is there any trace of a Sinclair of Dun earlier than 1540. Between 1508 and 1540 Dun was possessed by the family of Caldell or Calder.

From an early period the Crown had been in use to grant lands, and casualties of superiority, such as non-entry and ward, to persons having neither residential nor family connection with the county; but of these it is not proposed to take notice further than as they may throw light on its family history.

From 1290 to 1350 the Federiths, a Morayshire family, held extensive possessions in Caithness. How these were acquired does not appear. Contemporary with them, and allied by marriage, were the Chens or Cheynes, one of whom—styled in charters "Ranald Lord Chen"—obtained a grant from William Federith "of that Ilk," of a fourth part of Caithness, which was confirmed by David II. The possessions of the Cheyne family were scattered over the various parishes in the county, and on the death of Ranald Cheyne, the one-half passed to the Sutherlands, afterwards of Duffus or "Dove-house," through the marriage of one of his two

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daughters and heiresses, to Nicolas, brother of the Earl of Sutherland; and the remainder to the Keiths, afterwards Earls Marischall, by the marriage of the other daughter to John Keith of Inverruggie about 1380. In 1538 William, Earl Marischal, got a Crown charter of Ackergill and the Tower thereof; while Berriedale and Old Wick fell to the Sutherlands. Ultimately the Caithness holdings of the Duffus family with other lands were acquired by the Oliphants, by the marriage of William, then styled of Berriedale, second son of Laurence, first Lord Oliphant, to Christina, heiress of Duffus.

The Inneses of Innes, another Morayshire family, claim to have had the "third rig in Caithness." Their historian, Forbes, supposes them to have acquired some part of their Caithness possessions as far back as 1260, in place of lands taken from them in Moray, and "given to the Kirk." Mr. Cosmo Innes, who edits Forbes's "Account of the Familie of Innes," says, however, that he had discovered no evidence of their possessions in Caithness previous to 1507. In that year a charter of Dunbeath, Reay, and Sandside was granted to Alexander Innes, son and heir of Alexander Innes of Innes, and these possessions were resigned in 1529 in favour of Alexander Sinclair of Stemster, grandson of the first Earl of Caithness. In 1541 and 1564 the family of Innes of Innes held heritable rights in Wick, Latheron, and Thurso, acquired from the Oliphants; but they do not seem to

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have been landholders in Caithness for any considerable period. Until comparatively recent dates there were several landholders of the name, all believed to be of Morayshire extraction, such as the Inneses of Thursater and their collaterals; the Inneses, wadsetters, of Oust, of Skaill, and of Borrowstown; and the late family of Innes of Sandside.

The very ancient family of the Muats, or Mowats, or de Monte alto, as they were named of old, occur as early as 1275, when William de Monte alto witnessed an agreement between Archibald, Bishop of Caithness, and William, Earl of Sutherland, and they were connected with the county as landholders from at least the beginning of the fifteenth century. This appears from the fact that between 1406 and 1413 the Duke of Albany, as Regent of Scotland, confirmed to John Mowat a wadset of Freswick, granted to him by his father, William Mowat of Loscraggy. Down to 1661 the Mowats were proprietors of the estate of Freswick.

The Earls of Ross appear to have had at a remote period land rights in Caithness, but the origin or extent of these has not been traced. There is an original Precept of Sasine, dated 24th October 1429, by Alexander, Earl of Ross, in favour of his sister, Mariota, and her husband, Alexander de Sutherland, granting to them, "omnes et singulas terras nostras Dominii de Dunbeth;" and it is supposed to be the earliest writ extant concerning these lands. Alexander Sutherland of Dunbeath was long

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believed by all Scottish genealogists to have been the Master of Sutherland, the elder brother of John, third Earl, but in the Sutherland Peerage Case, in 1771, this was proved to be a mistake, his Will, made in 1456, having been discovered, and produced; and it is probable that he was of the Thorboll branch of the Sutherland family. Whatever may have been his descent, he was evidently a person of position and wealth; and his daughter, Majory, having married William St. Clair, first Earl of Caithness, his connection with the county has been perpetuated in her descendants of that family.

Nottingham, the residence of Sutherland of Forse, is the ancient Nothingham and Nodingham, and "Henry of Nothingham," a Canon of Caithness in 1272, was probably so styled from this place. In 1408 it came into the possession of the present family by grant from Mariot Cheyne, with consent of Andrew of Keith, her son, and Sutherland of Forse is thus the oldest of the existing county families.

At one period the Earls of Sutherland held the following lands which belonged to the bishopric, namely, Stemster (Reay), half of Brims, Forss, and Baillie, Lythmore, two-thirds of Oust, Dorrary, Myremeikle, Scrabster, Wick, and Papego, South and North Kilimster, Windless, Myrelandhorn, Ulgrunbeg and Ulgrimore, Halkirk, Easterdale, Westerdale, Tormsdale, Subminster, Deren, Alterwall, Stanstill.

Much property now in the hands of the landholders of

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Caithness belonged at one period to the Bishopric, and was feued out in portions from time to time by various Bishops and other church functionaries to the Earls of Sutherland of Caithness and others. In 1550 Bishop Robert Stuart granted to John, Earl of Sutherland, the hereditary bailiary of the possessions of the Bishopric; and in 1557 and 1559 Bishop Robert gave him a grant of the lands of Forss, Bailie, and Stemster, Lythmore, Wick, South and North Kilimster, and Winless; Myrelandhorn, Scrabster, and fortalice thereof; Skaill, Dorrary, Ulgrunbeg, and Ulgrimore; Halkirk, Subminster, Tormsdale, Deren, Alterwall, Stanstill, Brims, and Oust, etc. The Earl and his heirs were also appointed Hereditary Constables of the Castle of Scrabster and the Palace of Dornoch, "situated among the wild and uncivilised Scots, and in a wintry region." In 1201 Bishop John occupied the Palace of Scrabster, and in 1560 John, Earl of Sutherland, there signed a charter to the first Sinclair of Forss of the lands of Forss and Bailie, formerly part of the bishopric.

Budge of Toftingall dates from at least as far back as 1503, and the Murrays of Pennyland from the same century. Both families are now united and were represented by the late Sir Patrick Murray Threipland Budge. The Sinclairs of Forss have possessed Forss and Baillie since the year 1560.

Much of the information given in these Notes regard the Earls of the Sinclair line is to be found in the works

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of Douglas and other genealogists, but, without repetition from these sources, the lines of descent from the principal family of many of the county families would have been incomplete.

It may not be out of place to note some particulars of the state of society in the county in last century, as given in 1786 by Captain John Sutherland of Wester, whose recollection extended beyond the middle of that century. He says the people in general took a great deal more trouble in other people's business than in their own, which is to be accounted for by the circumstances that the county lies in a remote corner of the island, and that the access to and from it is only by one difficult road (the Ord), so that the people of it have not that free and easy intercourse with other counties as the other and more southerly counties have; and the county is so "interlarded" by marriages among themselves that a multiplicity of questions arise, particularly in the way of succession, which often creates bad blood among relations. The same cause produces a great deal of jaunting and visiting among relations. The Captain goes on to say that it was the general practice in the highland and inward part of the county, previous to and about the middle of the century, to go to markets with arms, such as broad-swords or side pistols; but the "parish of Canisbay," even in those days, "did not seem to be inspired with that warlike genius so much as the other parishes." But he had seen from four to six men, dressed in a sort of uniform, issue from the house of Fres-

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wick (then occupied by William Sinclair, who built it), to attend these markets, and with the result of the maltreatment of persons with whom Freswick was at variance.[1] Many of the lairds of this period, besides indulging largely in the luxury of litigation, passed portions of the year in Edinburgh, accompanied by members of their families, and went into good society, although few of them had incomes exceeding £200 to £300 a year.

[1] About 1739 or 1740 a dispute arose between Freswick and George Murray of Clairden in regard to the right of taking a description of sea-fowl, locally called "Layers or Liarts," and supposed to be the Puffin, from the rocks at Craig of Dunnet. Murray, as possessor of Dunnet, under a wadset, proceeded to exercise the privilege, along with a band of followers, armed with flails, scythes, and suchlike implements. Freswick, as tutor for his nephew, William of Rattar, the proprietor, proceeded to the Craig with eight followers, armed with broadswords and pistols. A scuffle ensued, in which Clairden received some personal damage, and had the worst of the fight.

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THE ST. CLAIRS OR SINCLAIRS, EARLS OF CAITHNESS.

The St. Clairs or Sinclairs, Earls of Caithness.

I. WILLIAM ST. CLAIR, EARL OF ORKNEY, obtained a grant of the Earldom of Caithness in 1455 from James II. He was the first of this family who enjoyed the dignity. He held many high public offices, possessed extensive landed property, and had in his time great influence; and he appears to have lived in his castle at Roslyn in almost regal splendour. In personal appearance he is described as having been "a very fair man, of great stature, broad bodied, yellow haired, and well proportioned," and to be "much given to policy, as building of castles, palaces, and churches," among which were Roslyn Castle and its celebrated Chapel.

He was twice married—first, to Margaret, daughter of Archibald, fourth Earl of Douglas,[1] by whom he had a son, William, named "Williame the Waster," ancestor of the Lords Sinclair, and a daughter, Catharine, married to Alexander, Duke of Albany. He married, secondly, Marjorie, daughter of Alexander Sutherland of Dunbeath. In Gordon's "History of the Family of Sutherland,"

[1] [She was widow [of John Stewart, Earl of Buchan, and of Sir Thomas Stewart, natural son of Alexander, Earl of Mar.]

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The St. Clairs or Sinclairs, Earls of Caithness.

this Alexander Sutherland is stated to have been the eldest son of John, Earl of Sutherland; and down to 1771 this was the general opinion of Scottish genealogists. But it was then proved in the Sutherland peerage case, by the production of his original will, that he was alive in 1456, and that he had several sons and daughters, whereas Alexander, Master of Sutherland, appears to have died about 1444, when the earldom went to his younger brother. It is uncertain of what family Alexander Sutherland of Dunbeath was, but it is probable that he was of the Thorboll or Duffus branch of the family of Sutherland. It is on the supposed descent of Sutherland of Dunbeath from the Earl of Sutherland, and on the belief that his daughter Marjorie was the Earl's granddaughter, that the close blood connection, assumed by Douglas and others to have existed between the Earls of Caithness and Sutherland, is founded.

By his second marriage Earl William had issue—

1. Sir Oliver of Roslyn.
2. William, his successor in the earldom.
3. Sir David of Swinburgh.
4. Robert, mentioned in a Crown charter in 1506.
5. John, Bishop nominate of Caithness.

William Sinclair of Warsetter in Orkney, who married a daughter of George, Earl of Huntly, was probably a son or grandson of Earl William.

His daughters, by the second marriage, were—

1. Eleanor; 2. Marion; 3. Elizabeth; 4. Marjorie.

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The seniority of Sir Oliver, and his brother-german William, has been a matter of controversy. The unequal distribution of their father's large succession has been considered to support the seniority of Sir Oliver, "for"—as observed in Father Hay's account of the family of Roslyn—"while the second Earl does not seem to have inherited anything beyond the barren domains belonging to the earldom, Sir Oliver received Roslyn and other extensive properties, any one of which was worth the fee-simple of the northern estates made over to his brother."

The St. Clairs or Sinclairs, Earls of Caithness.

Nisbet, whose work was written about the beginning of last century, says, "To clear the seniority of these sons, I have seen a contract of the date the 9th of February 1481, betwixt William Sinclair (William the Waster), son and heir of the deceased William, Earl of Orkney, Lord Sinclair and Zetland, and Henry Sinclair, son and apparent heir of the said William Sinclair, on the one part, and Sir Oliver Sinclair of Rosline, on the other part, whereby the said Sir Oliver freely resigns and gives over to the said William and his son and apparent heir, Henry, the lands of Causland, Dysart, and Ravensheugh, with the castles; and, on the other part, William and his son Henry renounce all right to the barony of Rosline, Pentland Mure, etc., in favour of Sir Oliver and his heirs; and the said Oliver obliges himself that he shall in time coming do worship and honour to the said William as accords him to do to

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The St. Clairs or Sinclairs, Earls of Caithness.

an elder brother, and if it happen any plea or debate to be betwixt the said William and *his younger brother*" (William, afterwards second Earl of Caithness) "for the earldom of Caithness, the said Sir Oliver shall stand evenly and neuter betwixt them as he should do betwixt his brothers, and take nò partial part with either of them."[1]

II. WILLIAM, SECOND EARL, obtained a charter from King James III., on his father's resignation in 1476, of the earldom, including the patronage of the Hospital of St. Magnus, at Spittal. In 1505 he sat in Parliament as Earl of Caithness, and in 1513 he fell at Flodden.

By his wife, Mary, daughter of Sir William Keith of Inveruggie, he had—

1. John, his successor.
2. Alexander, ancestor of the first family of Sinclair of Stemster and Dunbeath.

He had also a natural son, William, who was legiti-

[1] Mr. Burnett, Lord Lyon, who had the perusal of these notes, writes on 4th November 1873, to Principal Campbell, Aberdeen, "I observe he (Mr. Henderson) takes Nisbet's view of the respective seniority of Sir Oliver of Roslyn and his brother William, Earl of Caithness. My own belief is quite the other way; the document quoted by Nisbet is equally capable of either interpretation, and the Sinclairs of Roslyn having in all the older MSS., Sir David Lindsay's included, which was close to that period, *a mullet* for difference, is to me very convincing proof that Sir Oliver was the third son of his father. This mark of cadency seems first to have been allowed to be dropped in 1672, probably in consequence of both Lord Sinclair and the Earl of Caithness having their arms otherwise differenced.

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mised in 1543, but of whose descendants, if any, no account has been discovered.

III. JOHN, THIRD EARL, was slain in an expedition to Orkney in 1529. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Sutherland of Duffus, by whom he had—

1. William, who died in 1527, without issue.
2. George, his successor.

He had also a natural son, David, who held the office of Bailie to the Bishop of Caithness. In 1556, David's brother, Earl George, obtained a remission for imprisoning him in Girnigo Castle.

IV. GEORGE, FOURTH EARL, was Justiciar of Caithness by grant, in 1566, from Queen Mary; and he was one of the peers who sat on the trial of Bothwell.

He married Lady Elizabeth Graham, daughter of William, Earl of Montrose, and had—

1. John, Master of Caithness.
2. William, who was first Laird of Mey, and ancestor of Ulbster.
3. George of Mey, Chancellor of Caithness.

1. Barbara, who married Alexander, Earl of Sutherland, and was divorced by him in 1573.
2. Elizabeth, married first to Alexander Sutherland of Duffus, and thereafter to Hutcheon M'Kay of Farr, ancestor of the Lords Reay.

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The St. Clairs or Sinclairs, Earls of Caithness.

3. Another daughter, married to Alexander Innes, of Innes.

Douglas mentions Janet St. Clair, a daughter of this Earl, as third wife of Robert Munro of Foulis, said by him to have died without issue. In 1582 Janet Sinclair, Lady Foulis, had a Tack of the Parsonage of Spittal, which belonged to the Caithness family.

John, Master of Caithness, died at Girnigo Castle in 1576. In 1543 he had obtained a charter from Queen Mary, by which the earldom became a *male fee*, to him and his heirs-male. He married Jean, daughter of Patrick, Earl of Bothwell; and had three sons and a daughter:—

1. George, afterwards Earl of Caithness.
2. James, first of Murkle.
3. John, first of Greenland and Rattar.

1. Agnes.

Douglas gives the Master a legitimate son David, but this is an error. In August 1587 David Sinclair obtained a charter of Alterwall from Henry Keir of Greenland; and in a Crown charter which followed thereon he is designated "*filio naturali* quond. Joannis Magistri Cathanensis." In 1588 he obtained Letters of Legitimation. He had two sons, John, killed at Thurso in 1612, and Colonel George, who perished in the same year in the luckless expedition to Norway, of which full details are to be found in Calder's "History of Caithness," and elsewhere. In Chambers's "Domestic Annals" (vol. i. pp.

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445-6), it is stated that in the Pass Kringelen there is a tablet with the following inscription:—"Here lies Colonel Sinclair, who with nine hundred Scotsmen were dashed to pieces like clay-pots by three hundred Boors of Lessöe, Vaage, and Fröen; Berdon Segelstadt Ringeböe was the leader of the Boors." The St. Clairs or Sinclairs, Earls of Caithness.

The Master had also a natural son, Henry, who got a conveyance from his brother, Earl George, of part of the lands of Borrowstown and Lybster, with "the miln and fishings," and in a reversion by him in favour of the Earl dated 23d September 1606, he is designed as his "brother naturall." By his wife, Janet Sutherland, he had a son John, and he is probably the ancestor of a family of Sinclairs of Lybster, who occur as Wadsetters of these lands down to 1670.

In 1614, Henry Sinclair accompanied Earl George in an expedition to Orkney, and it is related by Gordon that, while besieging the Castle of Kirkwall, he "went to bed at night in health, but before the morning he was benummed in all his sences, and remained so until his death,"—an event evidently considered by the historian as a judgment on the Earl's proceedings.

V. GEORGE, FIFTH EARL, succeeded his grandfather in 1583.[1] He married Jean Gordon, daughter of George, fifth Earl of Huntly, and had two sons; and a daughter Elizabeth, named in Douglas's Peerage Anne, who married

[1] 1583-1643.

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The St. Clairs or Sinclairs, Earls of Caithness.

George, Lord Lindsay, afterwards Earl of Crawfurd, and died without issue.—Inventory of Caithness titles.

1. William, Lord Berriedale, who married Mary, daughter of Henry Lord Sinclair. He died before his father, leaving a son, John, Master of Berriedale, who married Jean, daughter of the Earl of Seaforth, and died in 1639. John had three sons,—George, afterwards sixth Earl; and John and William, who died before him.
2. Francis of Northfield, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Lord Fraser, and had a son, George Sinclair of Keiss, afterwards seventh Earl, and a daughter "Jean, Lady Mey," who died in 1716.

Francis Sinclair had a natural daughter, Margaret, who in 1653 married John, son of Alexander Sutherland in Lybster, to whom her father promised a tocher of 700 merks, which, however, the cautioners in the contract of marriage, Patrick Sinclair of Ulbster, and John Smart, Minister of Wick, were compelled to pay.

Earl George had two natural sons, Francis, who, about 1621,[1] fought a duel with his relative, Sir William Sinclair of Mey; and John, who attained the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the German wars. From Francis Sinclair are descended the Sinclairs of Stirkoke.

VI. GEORGE, SIXTH EARL, married Mary, daughter

[1] Gordon, p. 450. [2] 1643-1676.

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of the Marquis of Argyle, and died at Thurso Castle in 1676, without issue.

The earldom being much involved in debt, Earl George disponed the estates and *title* to his principal creditor, John Campbell of Glenorchy, who, on the Earl's death, married the Countess, and was created Earl of Caithness by patent. Glenorchy's right to the title was challenged by George Sinclair of Keiss, son of Francis Sinclair of Northfield, and after a proclamation in favour of the latter by the Privy Council in 1681, Glenorchy was created Earl of Breadalbane and Holland.

VII. GEORGE SINCLAIR OF KEISS, SEVENTH EARL OF CAITHNESS,[1] and grandson of the fifth Earl, died in 1698 without issue.

With George Sinclair the heirs-male of the body of the fifth Earl came to an end, and the succession to the dignity opened to the descendants of James Sinclair, first of Murkle, in the person of his grandson, John Sinclair, then of Murkle.

VIII. JOHN, EIGHTH EARL,[2] was eldest son of Sir James Sinclair, second of Murkle, and married Jean Carmichael of the Hyndford family.[3]

In March 1644 his father resigned the lands of Murkle in favour of himself and of John, styled his

[1] 1681-98.

[2] 1698-1705.

[3] [So designed in Douglas's Peerage, 1764. Crawfurd, nearly a contemporary, calls her simply "Jean Carmichael." Mr. C. H. E. Carmichael's almost exhaustive researches in Carmichael genealogy have failed to affiliate her.]

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The St. Clairs or Sinclairs, Earls of Caithness.

eldest lawful son, and the heirs of his body, whom failing, to the other heirs-male of his body.

Earl John died in 1705, leaving four sons and a daughter :—

1. Alexander, his successor.
2. John, Lord Murkle, one of the Senators of the College of Justice, who left no issue.
3. Francis, of Milton of Lieurary, who left no issue.
4. Archibald.

1. Lady Janet, who married, in 1714, David Sinclair of Southdun, and had several children.—(*Vide* Southdun.)

IX. ALEXANDER, NINTH EARL,[1] married Lady Margaret Primrose, daughter of the Earl of Rosebery, and died in 1765, leaving an only child, Lady Dorothea, who married James, Earl of Fife, and died in 1819, without issue.

In 1761 the Earl executed an entail of his estates, in virtue of which, on failure of his heirs therein mentioned, they passed to the Sinclairs of Stevenson,—a family not related to that of Murkle.

Earl Alexander resided at Haimer Castle,[2] which after

[1] 1705-65.

[2] Haimer seems to have been a square building, like a tower or fortalice, and to have contained some eight or nine rooms, including dining-room, drawing-room, tea-room, two "pavilions," a few bedrooms, with sundry closets, cellars, etc. From an inventory of the plate, the establishment would appear to have been on a very moderate scale, the Earl having apparently possessed but a dozen and a half of silver spoons of all kinds, an old tea-kettle and lamp, sugar-tongs and spoon, a couple of small salvers, a tankard, and some plated candlesticks, and the like. Sumptuary laws were less required in Earl Alexander's days than in our time.

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his death was allowed to fall into disrepair, and now no vestige of it remains.

The St. Clairs or Sinclairs, Earls of Caithness.

On the death of Earl Alexander the male issue of John the eighth Earl, and of his father, Sir James Sinclair, and of his grandfather, James, first of Murkle, became extinct, and the succession of the title devolved on William Sinclair of Rattar, as the lineal descendant of Sir John Sinclair of Greenland and Rattar, third son of John, Master of Caithness, and younger brother of James, first of Murkle.

Sir James of Murkle had a son, David of Broynach, whose male descendants would have succeeded to the dignity in preference to the Greenland and Rattar branch, but his grandson, James, who claimed the title, failed to establish the legitimacy of his father, David, son of David Sinclair of Broynach, and William of Rattar was served heir-male;[1] and in May 1772 the Committee of Privileges adjudged the title to him. This was the second instance in which a remote heir-male had succeeded to this peerage, to the exclusion of the heir of line, for Lady Fife did not claim the title.

X. WILLIAM, TENTH EARL, married Barbara, daughter of John Sinclair of Scotscalder, and died in 1779. He had five sons and two daughters:—

1. John, his successor; 2. William, an officer, who died in America, unmarried; 3. James; 4. Alexander; 5. David.

[1] November 1768.

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The St. Clairs or Sinclairs, Earls of Caithness.

These three died young and unmarried.

1. Lady Isabella, who died unmarried.
2. Lady Janet, who married James Traill of Rattar.

XI. JOHN, ELEVENTH EARL, succeeded in 1779, and died unmarried in 1789, in his thirty-third year; and with him ended the direct male line of the family of Greenland and Rattar.

The Sinclairs of Freswick, descended from that William Sinclair of Ratter, who died in 1663, were the only collaterals of the family of Greenland and Rattar; and had John of Freswick survived John, the eleventh Earl, he would have succeeded to the earldom. He died, however, in 1784, without surviving male issue, and the title devolved on Sir James Sinclair of Mey, the lineal descendant of George, one of the younger sons of George, the fourth Earl.

XII. SIR JAMES SINCLAIR OF MEY, TWELFTH EARL, was served as nearest lawful heir-male of William, second Earl of Caithness, in May 1790, and his claim to the peerage was sustained by the House of Lords. He married Jane, daughter of Alexander Campbell of Barcaldine and his wife Helen, daughter of George Sinclair of Ulbster, and had issue.

It is to be hoped that the dignity will long remain in the present line; but in the possibility of the failure of an heir-male, the next in succession would seem to be the

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heir-male of Robert Sinclair of Durran, whom failing, the heir-male (if any) of George Sinclair, first of Olrig, and whom failing, the heir-male of George Sinclair, first of Barrock. These exhaust the elder branch of the Caithness family, and failing them the title would apparently become extinct, unless an heir is to be found in the descendants of Alexander Sinclair of Stemster and Dunbeath, second son of William, the second Earl.

The St. Clairs or Sinclairs, Earls of Caithness.

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THE SINCLAIRS OF STEMSTER AND DUNBEATH.

The Sinclairs of Stemster and Dunbeath.

GORDON, in his "Genealogy of the Sutherland Family," states that "Dunbeath was given *to the Sinclairs*" by that William, Earl of Sutherland, who died in 1370, at the time when, by the distribution of lands to his friends, he was strengthening his interests in prospect of his son's succession to the Scottish Crown. But there is no evidence either that the Sinclair family had a footing in Caithness at so early a date, or that Dunbeath did at any time belong to the Earl of Sutherland. It is true that the earliest writ concerning Dunbeath supposed to be now extant, is a precept of sasine, dated 24th October 1429, granted by Alexander de Isle, Earl of Ross, for infefting his sister, Mariotta, and her husband, *Alexander de Sutherland*, in the lands of Dunbeath, and that this Alexander Sutherland was, down to 1771, considered to have been the Master of Sutherland, as the eldest son of John, tenth Earl of Sutherland, but it is now certain that Sutherland of Dunbeath was not a son of the Earl.

In 1507 Dunbeath was in possession of the family of

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Innes of Innes. In 1529,[1] on the resignation of Alexander Innes, a Crown charter erecting Dunbeath, Reay, and Sandside into a barony was granted in favour of— The Sinclairs of Stemster and Dunbeath.

I. ALEXANDER SINCLAIR, son of William, second Earl of Caithness, and Elizabeth Innes, his wife. This lady was no doubt of the family of Innes of Innes, and it is probable that through her marriage to Alexander Sinclair these estates came for the first time into the Sinclair family. In 1507 Alexander Sinclair had obtained a Crown charter of Stemster, and thus he appears to have been the first Sinclair of Stemster and Dunbeath. The Crown charter in 1529 contains the following clause of some antiquarian interest—"cum mulierum merchetis cum furca, fossa, sok, sak, thole, thieme, infangtheif, outfangtheif, pit, et gallous." Various explanations of the "mercheta mulierum" have been given, some of them sufficiently barbarous, but according to Hailes it really seems to have been the right of levying a fine from a serf or villain, on the marriage of his daughter. About 1657 the lands of Inverse of Dunbeath were erected into a burgh of barony, to be called the burgh of Magnusburgh.

Alexander Sinclair had two sons and a daughter:—

1. William.
2. Oliver, no doubt so named after his grand-uncle, Sir Oliver of Roslyn. He is frequently men-

[1] 11th January 1529.

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The Sinclairs of Stemster and Dunbeath.

tioned as the "brother-german" of William; and in a curious document given in the "Account of the Family of Innes,"[1] entitled "The Maister of Elphinstoun's Letter," he occurs as "Oliephare Syncklare, brother to William Syncklare of *Dunbeytht*. In the "Topography of Scotland," by John Harding, between 1437 and 1460, there is reference to the "Castel of *Dunbeke*" as north of the "Water of Suthyrland."

1. Isabel, daughter of Alexander Sinclair, married Gilbert Gordon of Garty, uncle to John, fifth Earl of Sutherland. She has attained an unenviable notoriety as a murderer, by poison, of the Earl and his lady in 1567, for the purpose of opening the way for her own son's succession to the earldom.

Alexander Sinclair seems to have died before 1541. His widow, Elizabeth Innes, appears also to have been dead about 1557, seeing that her son, William, then got a grant of the non-entry dues of Dunbeath and the barony, of which lands his father and mother had been joint fiars.

II. WILLIAM, SECOND OF DUNBEATH, was apparently a minor, and unmarried, when his father died, for, in 1541, Oliver Sinclair of Pitcarnie, styled also of Solway Moss, obtained a grant of his casualty of marriage, and he was not infeft as heir to his father until 1557.[2]

[1] Forbes, p. 138.

[2] Precept, May 1557.

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The Sinclairs of Stemster and Dunbeath.

In 1562 and 1564 William Sinclair obtained from Adam, Bishop of Orkney, charters of Downreay, Brubster, Thura, and others, and in 1557 he got a Crown charter of confirmation. The charters from the bishop are alleged by Gordon to have been obtained through the fraudulent use of the title-deeds, which are said to have been deposited in the hands of William Sinclair, in confidence, by John, Earl of Sutherland, whose sister he had married. This story is repeated in the "Origines Parochiales," but both it and Sinclair's alleged complicity with his sister in the crime of poisoning the Earl, in order to escape the consequences of his fraud, must be ranked among the spiteful assertions so frequently made by Gordon when he has occasion to notice Caithness affairs. The Earl lived several years after William Sinclair had obtained the bishop's charters, and not only were they acquired on the Earl's own resignation of the lands, but there is nothing to show that William Sinclair's title was ever called in question by the Earl.

In 1547 William Sinclair obtained from William Gordon, Treasurer of Caithness, and Rector and Parson of St. Magnus' Hospital at Spittal, a charter of Mybster and Spittal, which was confirmed by Queen Mary in 1565.

William Sinclair was twice married—first (according to Gordon, who is the more reliable authority in this instance), to Beatrix, daughter of Alexander, Master of Sutherland, and sister of John, Earl of Sutherland; or

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The Sinclairs of Stemster and Dunbeath.

(according to Douglas), to Beatrix, the Earl's daughter. His second wife was Margaret, only child of Alexander Innes of Innes, and his wife Elizabeth, daughter of John, fifth Lord Forbes. After her father's death in 1553, Margaret Innes obtained a Crown charter of the lands of Ogston and others in Morayshire.

Forbes and Douglas concur in saying that Margaret Innes married "a brother of the Earl of Caithness;" and the former states that the Earl had sent over his brother, William Sinclair, to Morayshire, "to woo the lady for him," but that she preferred himself to the Earl; and that he got with her, for tocher, the Dunbeath and Reay estates, and also the lands of Monbeens, Leuchars, Inche, and others, near Elgin. For this story there is no foundation, since Dunbeath, Reay, and Sandside had certainly been acquired by the Sinclairs in 1529. Besides, William Sinclair was not the brother of an Earl of Caithness.

William Sinclair had five sons, and of these it has been supposed that by his first wife, Lady Beatrix Gordon, he had William, Richard, and George, and by his second wife, Henry and David. It is certain, however, that William was a son of the second marriage. In 1540 Margaret Innes had got from her natural brother, James Innes of Elrick, the lands of Over and Nether Monbeens; and in 1575 a precept was granted by her and her husband for infefting therein "William Sinclair of Stemster;" and Forbes, in noticing the infeftment on

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this precept, mentions him as the eldest son and heir of William Sinclair of Dunbeath and Margaret Innes. Whether any of the other sons were certainly of the first marriage, it is difficult to say. The sons were— The Sinclairs of Stemster and Dunbeath.

1. William, designed "of Stemster"—which, being the original family estate, was most likely to have devolved on his father's actual eldest son and heir, without reference to a first or second marriage—is supposed to have married Janet, eldest daughter of George, fourth Earl of Caithness. He died before his father, leaving a son George.
2. Richard, who got from his father in 1589 a charter of Mybster, Achalipster, and a two penny land of Spittal. In 1620 he was served heir to his brothers, Henry and David, and was styled of Brims. He seems not to have died before 1625. He had two sons, Alexander and Oliver, and a daughter. Alexander, styled also of Brims, died before his father. In 1619 Alexander married Anna, daughter of Hugh M'Kay of Scourie and Farr, and his wife Lady Jane, eldest daughter of Alexander, Earl of Sutherland, and he had two sons, John and William. John was served heir in Brims to his father Alexander and his grandfather Richard. He married Anna M'Kay, by whom he had a daughter, Elizabeth, who married her cousin, John M'Kay, second of Strathy, and was afterwards styled "Mistress of Strathy." There

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The Sinclairs of Stemster and Dunbeath.

is some uncertainty as to her mother, Anna M'Kay, but she is believed to have been daughter of Colonel Hugh M'Kay of Scourie. In 1647 John Sinclair and Hugh M'Kay of Dirlot and Strathy, who were cousins-german, executed a mutual entail. To this deed one of the witnesses was "James Sinclair of Gallowhill, brother-in-law to Brims 'and Keeper of a Copy.'" About 1660 John Sinclair sold Brims to John Sinclair of Tannach. Of William, second son of Alexander of Brims, no particulars have been learned. Oliver, second son of Richard Sinclair, got, in 1630, a liferent tack of Spittal from his nephew, John of Brims. The daughter of Richard Sinclair married Alexander Bayne of Clyth, a man of some mark in his time, son of Henry Bayne in Mybster. In 1631 her brother Oliver granted a bond for 500 merks, as part of her tocher.

3. George Sinclair in Downreay and in Durran, the third son of William of Dunbeath, is not much noticed. In 1643 he renounced a bond over Brims, in favour of his grand-nephew, John of Brims. He had a son, John, and a daughter, Barbara, who, in 1640, married David Sinclair of Lybster, in Reay, a descendant probably of Henry Sinclair of Lybster, natural son of John, Master of Caithness. It is conjectured that James Sinclair of Borlum, and latterly of Toft-

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kemp, who held Brubster and many of the lands which belonged to the Dunbeath family, may possibly have been a son of this George Sinclair.

4. Henry Sinclair of Brubster and Brims, who died without issue, probably before 1610, for, in that year his brother Richard, who was served heir to him in 1620, is designed "of Brims." This appears in a renunciation signed at Brims by Margaret Innes, widow of their father. In 1586 he got a Crown charter of Ormlie.
5. David Sinclair of Thura, who died also without issue.[1]

William Sinclair of Dunbeath, who led a long and active life, was much harassed in his old age by his relation the Earl of Caithness. Among other acts of violence the Earl "wasted Dunbeath by fire and sword,

[1] In reference to the younger children of William Sinclair, Mr. Alexander Sinclair writes as follows (March 1867):—

"1. Henry, son of Margaret Innes, died *s.p.*, and his brother Richard, in 1620, and Richard's grandson, John of Brims, in 1664, were both served heirs to him.

"2. David, whom you call 'of Thura,' another son of Margaret Innes, also died *s.p.*, as Richard was served heir to him in 1620 in Thura and *Borlum*.

"3. Richard's history is difficult. He is *son* of William in 1569, in contradistinction to the sons of Margaret Innes, who were minors in 1588. He is styled *lawful son*, and put after Henry and David in 1598, when he is designed of Mybaster (Mybster). Then he is of Browmes (Brims), in 1620. His oldest son, Alexander, is only married in 1619 to the first Anna M'Kay, leaving John and William, 1617; and Richard had also a son, Olypher, of Spittal, 1647. Richard had also a brother, George of Downra, 1643. But in all this there is no opening for *James* of Thura or his sons. When Brims comes off Dunbeath in Henry and Richard, and when the mutual settlement of Brims and Strathy takes place in 1647, the only younger branches possible seem to be John's brother, William, and his uncle, Olypher."

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The Sinclairs of Stemster and Dunbeath.

and besieged him in his house at Downreay;" until at length he retired to Morayshire, among his wife's friends, and there died in 1608. In the register of Confirmed Testaments, 1606-13, there is an entry of the "Testament Testamentar, latter will and legacie and inventar of ye gudes and gear of umq^{l} an hon^{le} man William Sinclair of Dunbeath." He was succeeded by his grandson,

III. GEORGE SINCLAIR OF DUNBEATH, who married Margaret, daughter of John, eighth Lord Forbes, and died in 1624, leaving an only child Margaret, of whom no further notice is found.

George Sinclair's grandfather had resigned the estates in his favour in 1590, and, in May 1591, he obtained a Crown charter of confirmation. He was either facile, or a spendthrift, for, in 1602, he put himself under "Interdiction." In 1610 he resigned the barony in favour of his brother-in-law Arthur, Lord Forbes; and in 1624, Alexander, Master of Forbes, sold Dunbeath for 28,518 merks, or about £1550 sterling, to John Sinclair of Geanies, son of George Sinclair of Mey, who thus became the first of the second family of Sinclairs of Dunbeath; "and thus," writes Gordon in 1630, with apparent satisfaction, "God in His just judgment hath not left the authors of the Earl of Sutherland's death unpunished; for Dunbeath, his house and familie, is now perished as we see, and his estate is come into a stranger's hand."

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The remainder of the barony, and the lands of Spittal and Mybster, were acquired by Sir Donald M'Kay, first Lord Reay. In 1624 he was infeft, on a charter by the Bishop of Orkney, in Thura, Borlum, Downreay, and Brubster; and about the same time Sandside was purchased from Lord Forbes by William Innes, ancestor of the family of Innes of Sandside. The Sinclairs of Stemster and Dunbeath.

The only known existing descendants of the family of Sinclair of Stemster and Dunbeath are the descendants of Hugh and William, the elder and younger sons of Elizabeth, only child of John Sinclair of Brims by her marriage to John M'Kay, second of Strathy. For these reference is made to M'Kay's "History of the House and Clan of M'Kay."

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THE SINCLAIRS OF MURKLE.

The Sinclairs of Murkle.

I. JAMES SINCLAIR, FIRST OF MURKLE, was the second son of John, Master of Caithness, and grandson of George, fourth Earl of Caithness. He is frequently, but erroneously styled *Sir* James; the only knight of the family having been his son and successor, Sir James.

The original estate of Murkle, as possessed by James Sinclair, and his wife, and their son Sir James, was acquired at various times between 1586 and 1637, chiefly from George, fifth Earl of Caithness, and his son William, Lord Berriedale; the Bishops of Orkney and Caithness; and the Earls of Sutherland. Without attempting to trace the various changes of possession which took place from time to time, it is sufficient to say that the family estate in which Sir James Sinclair was infeft consisted of Murkle, East and West, and Clairdon; one-half of Ormlie, Thurdistoft, Acharascal, and Carnabiud, Lybster, and Borrowstone, all held of the Earl of Caithness; one-half of Ormlie, held of the Bishop of Caithness; Downreay, held of the Bishop of Orkney; and Broynach, held of the Earl of Sutherland. Subse-

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quently the following lands were acquired by the family, viz.—Isauld, in 1723, by Alexander Sinclair of Murkle, ninth Earl of Caithness; and Brubster and Brims in 1726-27, by his brother, Lord Murkle, to whom Alexander succeeded, as heir of conquest. The Sinclairs of Murkle.

James Sinclair, first of Murkle, married Elizabeth Stewart, daughter of Robert, Earl of Strathearn and Orkney, a natural son of King James v., and he had two sons and a daughter—

1. James, his successor.
2. Francis, who served in the German wars, and who is stated by Gordon to have held the rank of serjeant-major. In 1621[1] he had returned to Scotland, and married Janet, daughter of Alexander Sutherland of Forse, by whom he had a son, James, who left no issue. In a procuratory of resignation of Murkle by Sir James Sinclair in 1644, James Sinclair is mentioned as "eldest lawful son" of Francis, his brother, and in the Peerage case it was held that there was no other son of Francis.

1. Agnes, who married John M'Kay of Dirlot and Strathy.

James Sinclair had also a natural son, John Sinclair, first of Assery.—*Vide* Assery.[2]

II. Sir James Sinclair, Knight, appears to have

[1] Contract of Marriage, 19th July 1621.

[2] Peerage case.

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The Sinclairs of Murkle.

been twice married. In January 1633 a disposition was granted by him, with consent of Dame Margaret Dundas, his spouse, of part of the lands of Ormlie; and in October 1634 there is a contract of marriage between him and Jean, eldest daughter of William Stewart of Burray, who is therein designed of "Manur." By Jean Stewart he had two sons and five daughters:—

1. John, afterwards eighth Earl of Caithness.
2. David of Broynach, who died between 1713 and 1716.

David Sinclair of Broynach married a daughter of William Sinclair of Dun, by whom he had a son, James, and a daughter, Elizabeth.[1] James died about 1754, without issue. Elizabeth married James Whyte, in Meikle Clyth, afterwards in Thurso, and had two daughters, Henrietta and Jean. Henrietta Whyte married William Miller, and had a son, James, and a daughter, Isabella. Jean Whyte married Donald Oagg, weaver and merchant in Thurso, and had two sons, James and Donald, and two daughters, Janet and Anne. On the death of Lady Fife, only daughter of Alexander Sinclair of Murkle, ninth Earl of Caithness, James and Isabella Miller, and Donald and Anne Oagg, claimed and obtained a share of her executry,[2] as the great grandchildren of David of Broynach, Lady Fife's grand-uncle.

David of Broynach had also, by one Janet Ewen,[3] or

[1] See proof in Peerage case.

[2] Receipt, 26th September 1789.

[3] By Janet Ewen, who was his servant, David of Broynach had two sons, David and Donald, and two daughters. David, the eldest son, enlisted as a

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Ewing, a son, David, who was reputed to be illegitimate, and on his death the Earl refused to permit him to be buried in his burying-place. On the death of Earl Alexander, James Sinclair, in Reiss, son of the reputed illegitimate son, David, and grandson of David of Broynach, claimed the title, on the allegation of his father's legitimacy, in opposition to William Sinclair of Rattar. In conjoined claims to be served heir before the Macers, after proof by both parties, the jury, on 28th November 1768, pronounced a verdict by a majority in favour of Rattar, which, after various proceedings before the Court of Session, was confirmed. In 1786 James Sinclair threatened to renew his claim to the title; but in 1788 he died, and the question of his father's legitimacy became unimportant, inasmuch as he had no issue, and no other heir-male of his grandfather then remained alive. The Sinclairs of Murkle.

1. Jean, the eldest daughter.[1]
2. Mary, who married, first, George Sinclair of Forss, and, on his death, William Sutherland of Geise.
3. Anne, "Mistress of Stemster," who married Alexander Sinclair of Stemster, son of Alexander of Latheron.

soldier, and married one Margaret More or M'Kay, by whom he had a son, James, who resided in Reiss, and John, who was alive in 1767. Donald Sinclair, David's second son, went to sea, and married, and had a son and five daughters, who were all dead in 1767 except one named Anne, who married Alexander Millis, merchant in Banff. Janet Ewing was buried in the Old Kirk of Olrig, under Durran's seat.

[1] Disposition by her mother, 18th May 1692.

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The Sinclairs of Murkle.

4. Barbara, who married James Cunningham of Reaster.
5. Katharine, who married Walter Innes of Skaill.

III. JOHN SINCLAIR OF MURKLE succeeded to the earldom of Caithness in 1698 as the eighth Earl, and died in 1705. He married Jean Carmichael of the Hyndford family, by whom he had four sons and a daughter :—

1. Alexander.
2. John, Lord Murkle, of the Court of Session, who married Jean, daughter of the first Earl of Cromarty, and his wife, Anne, daughter of Sir James Sinclair of Mey. He died in 1755 without issue.
3. Francis, who died without issue in 1762. In a disposition in 1760 by him of the lands of Milton of Lieurary and others, he settles the lands on the "heirs-male of the marriage then subsisting between him and Mrs. Janet Morrison."
4. Archibald, who also died without issue.[1]

1. Lady Janet, who married David Sinclair of South Dun, by whom she had a daughter, Janet, who married Stewart Threipland of Fingask, and other children.

IV. ALEXANDER SINCLAIR OF MURKLE, NINTH EARL OF CAITHNESS, married Margaret, daughter of the first Earl of Rosebery, by whom he had an only child—

[1] Peerage case.

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Lady Dorothea, who married James, Earl of Fife, and died without issue. The Sinclairs of Murkle.

Earl Alexander had two natural sons, George Sinclair in Geise, who died without issue, and Peter, who had a son, James, who died without issue, and seven daughters, of whom six married and had issue.

William Sinclair of Rattar was the lawful heir of Earl Alexander on failure of his own family, they being descended from two brothers, James Sinclair, first of Murkle, and Sir John Sinclair, first of Greenland and Rattar. But they do not seem to have been on friendly terms, for in his correspondence with George Sinclair of Woodhall, Lord of Session, in reference to a settlement of his estates, Earl Alexander says: "Rattar is next tho' very remote. Though he lives within four miles of me he never comes to see me, from which it seems he is disobliged because I did not give him all I had, and depend for subsistence on his generosity. He cannot be very wise, for he could not have taken a more effectual way to disappoint his expectations."

Earl Alexander died in 1765. In 1761 he executed an entail of the estate of Murkle and his other lands, by which, on failure of his own heirs therein mentioned, the property was disponed to Lord Woodhall and the heirs-male of his body, and failing them to his, Lord Woodhall's, nearest lawful heirs-male of line; and under this destination the succession was taken up on the Earl's death by Sir John Sinclair of Stevenson, Lord Woodhall's

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The Sinclairs of Murkle.

nephew. The Sinclairs of Stevenson are descended from the Sinclairs of Longformacus, a branch of the family of Roslyn. Sir Gregory Sinclair, third son of Sir William of Roslyn, flourished in the reign of Robert the Bruce, and the first Sinclair of Stevenson was George, second son of Matthew, ninth Laird of Longformacus, who died about 1620. His son, John, was a merchant in Edinburgh, and was created a baronet, and purchased Stevenson and other lands. He is now represented by Sir Robert Charles Sinclair of Stevenson and Murkle, his lineal descendant, and ninth baronet of Stevenson.

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THE SINCLAIRS OF ASSERY.

I. JAMES SINCLAIR, FIRST OF MURKLE, had a son named John, who, in a charter granted by his father in 1615, to which he was an instrumentary witness, is designed "filio naturali dicti Jacobi Sinclair de Murkel;" and who, in a bond dated 28th January 1619, also by his father, and in which he was cautioner, is mentioned as "John Sinclair, son natural" of the granter. In 1628 John Sinclair obtained from William, Lord Berriedale, a charter of the lands of Assery, to himself in liferent, and to his eldest son, James, in fee. In 1631 he got a charter of Brawlbin; and in 1633 a wadset of Forsie; and from him are descended the Sinclairs of Assery, of Lybster, of Geise, and of Scotscalder. The Sinclairs of Assery.

John Sinclair was twice married, and had by his first wife—

1. James, his successor.
2. Lieutenant-Colonel Francis Sinclair, who, in 1659, married Anna, daughter of Francis Sinclair of Stirkoke. In 1680, their daughter, Margaret, married David Henderson of Gersay, son of William Henderson of Nottingham and his wife,

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The Sinclairs of Assery.

Janet Gordon, widow of James Sutherland of Forse.

John Sinclair's second wife was Margaret Davidson, who is traditionally supposed to have been of the Davidsons in Achingills or Buckies, and by her he had—

1. John Sinclair, first of Lybster.
2. William, who, in 1670, held the wadset of Forsie, and who was afterwards in Ulgrimbeg and Ulgrimore. He married Jean, daughter of William Sinclair of Dun, and had two daughters, Mary and Elizabeth. The former married, in 1705, Donald Gunn in Achalibster.
3. George, mentioned in 1652 and 1660.

1. Grizzel, who married John Doull, wadsetter of Thuster, near Wick.—*Vide* Doulls.
2. Isabell, who married, first, Arthur Forbes, merchant in Edinburgh, and, second, William Sinclair of Dun.
3. Janet, who married, in 1616, George Munro, Sheriff-Clerk of Caithness.

In a deed executed in 1665 by James, the eldest son of John Sinclair, in which he reserves Margaret Davidson's liferent of Assery, she is designed "my mother," but she appears to have been only his stepmother, seeing that John Sinclair of Lybster is mentioned as the eldest son of the second marriage.

II. JAMES SINCLAIR, SECOND OF ASSERY, married

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first, Elizabeth Balfour; and, second, Margaret, daughter of David Munro, commissary of Caithness. He had several sons and daughters:— The Sinclairs of Assery.

1. George, eldest son of his first marriage.
2. John, in Ulgrimbeg, married Bess Craigie. George and John are named as brothers-german.
3. James, a merchant in Thurso, who died in 1713, and had several sons, of whom Daniel was minister of Longformacus. William was a merchant in Thurso, and Alexander was a notary-public in Thurso, and married Jean, daughter of James Sinclair of Wester-Brims.

1. Katharine, eldest daughter, married Alexander Gibson, Dean of Bower from 1668 to 1682.

III. GEORGE SINCLAIR, THIRD OF ASSERY, was twice married. His second wife was Isabel, daughter of Patrick Sinclair of Ulbster. He had five sons and a daughter:—

1. James, apparent in 1700.
2. John, called eldest lawful son in 1691.
3. Patrick.
4. George, eldest son of Isabel Sinclair.
5. Francis, also of the second marriage.

1. Elizabeth, the only daughter, married Richard Sinclair of Thura.

The creditors of James, second of Assery, had led apprisings against the estates, which were acquired by

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The Sinclairs of Assery.

Ulbster and Sir William Dunbar of Hempriggs. In 1675 Ulbster assigned his rights to John Sinclair (2); while, in 1682, Sir William Dunbar conveyed his rights to George Sinclair (4), then of Assery, and his sons, John and Patrick.

IV. JOHN SINCLAIR, FOURTH OF ASSERY, succeeded his father, George, and in 1698 married Elizabeth Innes, widow of Laurence Calder of Lynegar, by whom he had an only son, John, his successor. He afterwards married Barbara, daughter of Patrick Murray of Pennyland, by whom he had an only child, Isabella, who married John Sinclair of Scotscalder.

V. JOHN SINCLAIR, FIFTH OF ASSERY, was served heir in general to his father, John, in 1728, and in 1765 he was infeft as eldest lawful son. He married Katharine, eldest daughter of Robert Sinclair of Geise, and had—

1. Robert.
2. John.
3. Charles.
4. James.

1. Isabella, eldest daughter, who married Robert Manson Sinclair of Bridgend.
2. Katharine.
3. Jean, who married Sir Benjamin Sinclair of Stemster.

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VI. CAPTAIN ROBERT SINCLAIR, SIXTH OF ASSERY, was served heir to his father *cum beneficio inventarii*, in 1772. He married Katharine Sinclair, and had no issue. The Sinclairs of Assery.

The estate was brought to judicial sale by the creditors, and Captain Sinclair having died during the proceedings, they were continued against his brother, John; and in 1784 Assery and Brawlbin were purchased by Ulbster. The trustees of Sir John Sinclair sold the lands to Mr. Campbell, merchant in London, and from him they were purchased by the late James Sinclair of Forss, for about £9000.

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THE SINCLAIRS OF LYBSTER.

The Sinclairs of Lybster.

I. JOHN SINCLAIR, FIRST OF LYBSTER, was eldest son of John Sinclair, first of Assery, and his second wife, Margaret Davidson. In 1647 he was appointed "Bailie of Latheron" by the Earl of Caithness; in 1655 he obtained a wadset of Lybster from the Earl of Caithness; and in 1692 the property was acquired by his son and successor, who obtained the right of reversion of the wadset. He married Beatrix Sinclair, supposed to have been of the Thura family, and had—

1. James, his successor.
2. George, whose only daughter, Beatrix, married Alexander Sinclair of Sixpennyland.

1. Elizabeth, who married Alexander Boynd in Thurso.

II. JAMES SINCLAIR, SECOND OF LYBSTER, married Katharine, daughter of Patrick Sinclair of Ulbster, and had five sons and two daughters :—

1. John, his successor.
2. Patrick, in Northfield in 1702, and who had a son, Alexander, afterwards of Lybster.

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3. William of Hoy and Scotscalder.
4. Robert of Geise, Advocate.
5. George (1731).

1. Beatrix, eldest daughter, who married, in 1707, James Sutherland in Ausdale.
2. Elizabeth, who married John M'Kay in Kirtomy, third son of John M'Kay of Strathy and Dirlot.

III. JOHN SINCLAIR, THIRD OF LYBSTER, styled "Fiar" in 1694, and "of Lybster" in 1709, succeeded his father, James, and died without issue.

IV. ALEXANDER SINCLAIR, FOURTH OF LYBSTER, was the nephew of John, last of Lybster, and son of Patrick Sinclair in Northfield. In 1710 he was served heir to his uncle, and to his grandfather, James. He married Æmilia, daughter of Alexander Sinclair of Sixpenny, and had a son and three daughters:—

1. Patrick, his successor.

1. Katharine, eldest daughter, who married James Sinclair of Harpsdale, and was his third wife.
2. Margaret, who died unmarried.
3. Æmilia, who died unmarried.

V. LIEUTENANT-GENERAL PATRICK SINCLAIR, FIFTH OF LYBSTER, married Catharine Stewart, and had four sons and a daughter:—

1. Temple Frederick, his successor.

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The Sinclairs of Lybster.

2. Jeffrey, Surgeon-General in the Bombay Army, who left two daughters.
3. Thomas Aubrey, Stipendiary Magistrate at Granada, where he died unmarried.
4. Patrick, who died unmarried.

1. Susan, only daughter, who married David Laing, Surgeon in Thurso, and died in 1865, leaving issue.

VI. TEMPLE FREDERICK SINCLAIR, THE SIXTH AND LAST OF LYBSTER, was a Captain in the Army, and died unmarried. In 1868 the estate was sold by his trustees to the Duke of Portland for £24,000.

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THE SINCLAIRS OF SCOTSCALDER.

The Sinclairs of Scotscalder.

I. William Sinclair, third son of James Sinclair of Lybster, had the lands of Hoy and Geise, and in 1729, he exchanged them with James Murray, son of Patrick Murray of Pennyland, for the estate of Scotscalder, which formed part of the Bishopric of Caithness, and was acquired in feu by the Caithness family, and by them wadsetted to the Murrays of Pennyland, who afterwards acquired the right of reversion. In 1713 William Sinclair adjudged Ulgrimbeg and Ulgrimore from the Sinclairs of Assery, and these lands were also originally church lands. He had three sons and two daughters:—

1. Alexander, of whom there is little further notice, unless he is the same person as Alexander Sinclair of Sixpenny.
2. John, afterwards of Scotscalder.
3. Robert. In 1734 John Sinclair mentions his "brother Robert" in a letter in which he orders him to receive clothing such as would be required by a person in the seafaring line, such as canvas jackets, etc.

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The Sinclairs of Scotscalder.

1. Janet, eldest daughter, who married John M'Kay, third of Strathy, and received a tocher of 6000 merks. The contract of marriage is dated 29th April 1731, and is witnessed by Francis Sinclair of Milton, William Sinclair, younger of Dun, Benjamin Williamson of Banniskirk, and others. She had two daughters, of whom Margaret married Patrick Honyman of Graemsay; and Barbara married Major John Scobie of Melness.
2. Barbara.

II. JOHN SINCLAIR, THE SECOND OF SCOTSCALDER, married Isabella, only daughter of John Sinclair, fourth of Assery, by his second wife, Barbara Murray, daughter of Patrick Murray of Pennyland. On his marriage in 1731 his father conveyed to him, with consent of his eldest son, Alexander, the lands of Scotscalder, Ulgrimbeg, and Ulgrimore. He had two sons and four daughters:—

1. William.
2. Robert.

1. Isabella, eldest daughter, was second wife of Captain Thomas Dunbar of Westfield. She died in 1829, and was interred in the chapel at Pennyland. Captain Dunbar was the second son of Alexander Dunbar of Grangehill, and he was the male representative of that family, which is descended from Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield, son of James, Earl of Moray. Captain Dunbar took

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the designation "of Westfield." He purchased Milton—now called Westfield—and Sibster (for Captain Dunbar's first marriage, *vide* Dunbar of Hempriggs); and by his second wife, Isabella Sinclair, he had two sons and three daughters:—James, who married a daughter of the Rev. Mr. Cameron, Halkirk, and died without issue; and Alexander, who was tenant of Scrabster and other Crown lands, and died unmarried in 1859;[1] the daughters were Isabella, Mrs. Robinson, who left a daughter; Barbara, Mrs. Guthrie, who had two sons, namely, the late Colonel Charles Seton Guthrie of Scotscalder, and James Baillie Guthrie; and Catharine, Mrs. M'Gregor, who had issue. The Sinclairs of Scotscalder.

2. Barbara, the second daughter of John Sinclair, married William Sinclair of Rattar, tenth Earl of Caithness.
3. Margaret.
4. Catharine.

One of these two ladies was second wife of James Sinclair of Holbornhead.

III. ROBERT SINCLAIR, THIRD AND LAST OF SCOTSCALDER, had an only son, Lieutenant-Colonel James Sinclair of the Royal Artillery, and two daughters, one of whom married Mr. Aitken, and had a son,

[1] 10th March 1859.

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The Sinclairs of Scotscalder.

who died young; while the other married Mr. Steel, an excise officer, and had issue. About 1812 he sold the estate.[1]

[1] The original estate of Scotscalder appears to have been at one time church lands, and to have been feued out by the Bishop of Caithness to the Caithness family. By them it was first wadsetted to the Murrays of Pennyland, who subsequently acquired the reversion, and from them it came, as stated, into the family of Sinclair of Hoy.

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ROBERT SINCLAIR OF GEISE.

Robert Sinclair of Geise.

ROBERT SINCLAIR OF GEISE, Advocate, was fourth son of James Sinclair of Lybster, and brother of William Sinclair of Hoy and Scotscalder. He married Catharine Ross, daughter of William Ross of Kindeace, and widow of George M'Kay of Bighouse, and had a son and four daughters:—

1. Katharine, who married John Sinclair of Assery.
2. Jean, who married James Sinclair of Holbornhead and Forss. *Vide* Forss.
3. Barbara, who married Dr. William Sinclair, Physician in Thurso. *Vide* Freswick.
4. Mary, who married Patrick Doull of Oldfield, merchant in Thurso. Their only child, who was alive in 1780, was Alexander, then in the East Indies, who died unmarried. He was an officer in the navy or marines, and his ship and crew were blown up.

Robert Sinclair died in 1742, and his wife about 1757. She retained the name of "Lady Bighouse," and resided latterly in Trantlemore, in Sutherlandshire, where she died.

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THE SINCLAIRS OF GREENLAND AND RATTAR.

The Sinclairs of Greenland and Rattar.

I. Sir John Sinclair, Knight, the first of this family, was third son of John, Master of Caithness, and was styled of Greenland, but his descendants have been designed of Rattar. He married Janet Sutherland, who was probably of the Sutherlands of Forse, since his nephew, Francis, son of his brother, James of Murkle, married also a lady of that family. From his brother George, the fifth Earl, he obtained, in 1609,[1] the feu farms of the lands of Rattar and others, by charter to himself in liferent and to his son, William, in fee; and in 1613 he got a disposition from the Earl of the lands of Rattar, Corsbach, Lieurary, Reaster, Murrsay, and Hailand, which are described to be pertinents of the Barony of Achergill, sometime pertaining to George, Earl Marischal, and William, Lord Keith, his son, and acquired by the Earl from them. In 1612 he occupied the Castle of Ormlie, near Thurso. He died in 1622, and had five sons and a daughter.[2]

1. William, who died before his father. Of him Sir

[1] 26th January and 16th May 1609.

[2] Peerage case.

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Robert Gordon writes: "This year of God, 1620, the eldest son of Sir John Sinclair of Greenland perished in the water of Risgill, as he was riding that river in a great speat and storm of weather. He was a young gentleman of good expectation." This event must have occurred earlier than 1620, for in 1618 his immediate younger brother, Alexander, obtained a precept as his heir. The Sinclairs of Greenland and Rattar.

2. Alexander, who in 1618 obtained from his uncle, Earl George, a precept of *clare* as heir to William. He died without issue.
3. John, who obtained in 1623 a precept of *clare* as heir to Alexander. He also died without issue, and was succeeded by—
4. James of Reaster, who obtained a precept on 16th December 1634, and was afterwards of Rattar.
5. Francis, who died without issue.

There is mention of a son, Thomas, as alive about 1630, but there is no trace of any of his descendants.

1. Elizabeth, Sir John's only daughter, married John Cunningham of Geise and Brownhill. In November 1630, her brother, James, borrowed from Sir John Sinclair of Geanies and Dunbeath £3000 "for payment of his sister Elizabeth's tocher to John Cunningham of Geise, her spouse." In Douglas's accounts of the Cunninghams there is much confusion and error as to this lady and her marriage.

Sir John had a natural son, George, mentioned in a

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The Sinclairs of Greenland and Rattar.

sasine in favour of his brother, Alexander, in 1619, but of him we have no further account.

II. JAMES SINCLAIR OF REASTER AND OF RATTAR,[1] married Janet, daughter of William Bruce of Stanstill, and had two sons, and, so far as has been ascertained, three daughters—

1. William, his successor.
2. John, who died without issue.

In an assignation dated 14th December 1636, by James Sinclair, to his eldest son, William, whom failing, to his second son, John, he assigns a reversion of Rattar, in consideration of certain payments by "Janet Murray, Ladie of Stanstill, my mother-in-law."

1. Janet, eldest daughter, who married Walter Bruce of Hain.[2]
2. Margaret, who married in 1655 John Smith, son of William Smith, Minister of Dunnet from 1614 to 1652.
3. Elizabeth or Elspeth, who married about 1652, William Bruce of Stanstill.[3]

[1] 1634.

[2] Contract of Marriage, 20th December 1642.

[3] In June 1864, it was stated in a notice in "Notes and Queries" that William Smyth, minister of Dunottar, afterwards of Bower and Watten, married a daughter of James Sinclair of Rattar, and had a son, George; but no evidence has been found of any such marriage. William Smith of Dunnet and William Smyth of Watten were different persons; and the writer in "Notes and Queries" has probably mistaken the connection of the Smiths with the family of Rattar. William Smyth was a rather remarkable man in his time, and notices of him will be found in M'Kay's "History" and in "Fasti Eccles. Scot."

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III. WILLIAM SINCLAIR, THIRD OF RATTAR, acquired the lands of Freswick in 1661, from Mowat of Buquhollie and his son, Magnus.[1] He married, first, in 1642, when in apparency only, Elizabeth, daughter of John Sinclair, first of Ulbster; and, second, in 1647,[2] Jean, daughter of John Cunningham of Geise and Brownhill, and relict of Alexander Sinclair of Latheron. John Cunningham, it has been seen, had for his second wife Elizabeth, aunt of William Sinclair of Rattar; but it is thought that his daughter, Jean, was not Rattar's cousin-german, but was the daughter of John Cunningham by his first marriage. Jean Cunningham was long famous in the locality under the name of "Jeanag of Rattar."

By his first marriage William Sinclair had John, his successor in Rattar.[3]

By his second wife he had three sons and two daughters.[4]

1. James of Freswick, said to have died in France, having been taken prisoner when on his way to Edinburgh to be married. In Chambers's "Domestic Annals" (vol. iii. p. 25, anno 1690) it is stated that having made his case known to the Scottish Privy Council, he was released in exchange for Mr. David Fairfoul, a priest detained in prison at Inverness.

[1] Contract of Marriage, 24th March.

[2] Contract of Marriage, 12th August.

[3] Last Will, 1663.

[4] Disposition by their father, 30th March 1650. Crown Charter, 30th April 1672, in favour of Jean Cunningham and her three sons.

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The Sinclairs of Greenland and Rattar.

2. Robert.
3. David, who succeeded to Freswick on the death of Robert.[1]

1. Janet, eldest daughter, who married John Sinclair of Ulbster, son of Patrick Sinclair.[2]
2. Anne, who married, first, Robert Sinclair of Durran, and, second, John Campbell of Castlehill, Commissary and Sheriff-clerk of Caithness.[3]

IV. JOHN SINCLAIR, FOURTH OF RATTAR, married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Sinclair of Mey, and had two sons and four daughters:—

1. John, his successor.
2. William, who, on the death in 1712 of his uncle, David of Freswick, succeeded to that estate.

1. Barbara, eldest daughter, who married John Sinclair of Forss. By their descendant, William Sinclair Thomson Sinclair, Esq., the estates of Freswick are now possessed under an entail executed in 1775 by John Sinclair, then of Freswick.
2. Frances, who married James Sinclair of Latheron.
3. Margaret, who married, first, Alexander Sinclair of Brabster, and, second, Alexander Gibson, Minister of Canisbay. *Vide* Brabster and Gibson.
4. Katharine, who married George Manson of Bridgend.

[1] Retour, 1696, of David to James and Robert.
[2] Retour, June 1712.
[3] Retour, 20th January 1713.

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V. JOHN SINCLAIR, FIFTH OF RATTAR, married Janet, daughter of Patrick Sinclair of Southdun, and died in 1733.[1] He had two sons :—

1. John, who died unmarried in minority.
2. William, who succeeded his father.

William was a minor at his father's death, and the estate was taken charge of by his uncle, William of Freswick. His mother also claimed the management, and, pending the dispute, "lodged in the garret while Freswick occupied the other parts of the house of Rattar." The widow afterwards married one Dun, a stay-maker in Edinburgh.

VI. WILLIAM SINCLAIR, SIXTH OF RATTAR, married Barbara, daughter of John Sinclair of Scotscalder, and died in 1779.[2] In 1772 his claim to the dignity of Earl of Caithness was sustained by the Committee of Privileges. He had five sons and two daughters :—

1. John, his successor.
2. William, an officer in the army, who died in America unmarried.
3. James. 4. Alexander. 5. David.

These died young and unmarried.

1. The eldest daughter, Lady Isabella, died unmarried.
2. Lady Janet, married to James Traill of Rattar, and had issue.—*Vide* Traills.

[1] Retour, 1719. [2] Retour, March 1773.

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The Sinclairs of Greenland and Rattar.

VII. JOHN SINCLAIR, SEVENTH AND LAST OF RATTAR, succeeded his father in 1779, and was the eleventh Earl of Caithness.

In 1772 he entered the army as an Ensign in the 17th Foot, and became Major in the 76th Foot in 1777.[1] He served for some years in America, and was wounded at the siege of Charlestown. In 1783 he attained the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. He died unmarried in 1789, and was at the time of his death the last *male* representative of the family of Greenland and Rattar.

[1] Scottish Nation.

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THE SINCLAIRS OF FRESWICK.

The Sinclairs of Freswick.

I. WILLIAM SINCLAIR OF RATTAR, grandson of Sir John Sinclair of Greenland and Rattar, was the first "Sinclair of Freswick," that estate having been acquired by him, in 1661, from Mowat of Buquhollie, and his son, Magnus of Freswick. By his second marriage (*vide* Rattar) he had three sons and two daughters:—

1. James, eldest son.
2. Robert.
3. David.

1. Janet, the eldest daughter, who married John Sinclair of Ulbster.[1]
2. Anne, who married in 1678 Robert Sinclair of Durran.

The sons were all named in the disposition to their father to the lands of Freswick dated 10th and 20th July 1661.

II. JAMES SINCLAIR OF FRESWICK obtained a Crown charter, on 30th April 1672, in favour of his mother in

[1] Retours 1712-1713.

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The Sinclairs of Freswick.

liferent, and himself and his brothers in succession in fee. He died before 1696 without issue.

The arms of the family,[1] as recorded by James Sinclair in the Lyon Register, are:—Quarterly first *azure*, a ship at anchor, with Oars in Saltier, within a double tressure counter-flowered *or*; second *or*, a lion rampant *gules*; third as the second; and the fourth *azure*, a ship under sail *or*, and, over all, dividing the quarters, a cross engrailed *sable*, all within a bordure *chequé or* and *gules*; Crest, a cross pattee, within a circle of stars *argent*. Motto, Via crucis via lucis.

III. ROBERT SINCLAIR OF FRESWICK succeeded his brother James, and, dying unmarried, was succeeded by his brother David.

IV. DAVID SINCLAIR OF FRESWICK was twice married, first, to Barbara, daughter of Sir William Sinclair of Mey,[2] and secondly to Sophia, daughter of Sir William Stewart of Burray.[3] He had no issue by either marriage. In April 1712 he executed an entail or destination of the estate in favour of his nephew, William, second son of his half-brother, John Sinclair of Rattar, the destination being, failing his own heirs male or female, "in favour of William Sinclair, second son of John Sinclair of Rattar, and the heirs-male of his body, whom failing, to John

[1] Nisbet. [2] Contract of Marriage, 9th April 1695.
[3] Contract of Marriage, 25th June 1702.

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Sinclair of Durran, my sister's son, and the heirs-male of his body; whom failing, to return to the heirs-male of the family of Rattar, my father's family." In 1712 and 1713, his sisters, Janet and Anne, were served heirs to him, and some legal proceedings touching the succession took place, but were ultimately abandoned. Mrs. Janet Sinclair, then relict of John Sinclair of Ulbster, executed in 1712 a deed from which the following is an extract:—"Out of the respect I have to the family of Ratter, being my father's family, and for supporting not only thereof, but also of my brother's family of Freswick, and his memory, condescended and agreed with the said William Sinclair that I should ratify the foresaid disposition and right, and denude myself of all title and right I have to the said estate." The Sinclairs of Freswick.

V. WILLIAM SINCLAIR OF FRESWICK, second son of John Sinclair of Rattar, and grandson of William Sinclair of Rattar by his first marriage, added to the family estates by the purchase of the wadsets of Dunnet and Greenland, held by Murray of Clairden, and of the reversion of these estates held by Sir James Sinclair of Dunbeath, and in 1751 he purchased Dunbeath from Sir William Sinclair of Keiss and James Sinclair of Latheron for £3000 sterling, and the lands of Warse and others in Canisbay from the Groat family. The House of Freswick was built by him about middle of last century. In 1778 James Sinclair, son of James Sinclair of Latheron, who sold

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The Sinclairs of Freswick.

Dunbeath, attempted to set aside the sale, but after many years' litigation the action of reduction raised against Freswick's son and successor failed.

William Sinclair of Freswick was a gentleman of ability and of considerable local note, while his personal appearance is stated to have been dignified and imposing. As leader of one of the two political parties into which the county was in his time divided (Sir William Dunbar of Hempriggs leading the other), he was an influential county gentleman. If vindictive and somewhat unscrupulous towards his enemies and opponents, as they alleged, he was a warm, and, on many occasions, a generous and considerate friend. He was eager in the promotion of his own interests, and his acquisition of a considerable estate from moderate beginnings, and the political and family animosities prevalent in the times in which he lived, account, to some extent, for the rather unfavourable traditionary character he bears.

He married Katharine, daughter of George Sutherland of Forse, and he died in 1769.[1] He had a son and two daughters:—

1. John, his successor.
1. Elizabeth, eldest daughter, married, when somewhat advanced in life, George Bean, a Writer in Inverness.
2. Jean, married Alexander Sinclair of Barrock, and was grandmother of Sir John Sinclair, late of Barrock.

[1] Peerage case, 4th July 1769.

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VI. JOHN SINCLAIR OF FRESWICK, Advocate, was Sheriff of the county, and was twice married. His first wife was Margaret, daughter of Sir John Dalrymple of Cousland, and a lady to whom he appears to have been much attached, although for some reason, now unknown, his father was much opposed to the marriage. By her he had a son and a daughter:— The Sinclairs of Freswick.

1. William, who was a Lieutenant in the 78th Regiment, in 1778. He predeceased his father without issue, and appears to have given him much trouble and distress from his extravagant habits.

1. Kitty, who also died before her father, in her fifteenth year.

By his second wife, Margaret, daughter of James Moray of Abercairney, who survived him, he had no issue.

In the contested county election, in 1754, John Sinclair was invited by the Brodie party to stand as a candidate, but he declined, and supported General Scott, who was returned.

He died and was buried at Bath, in 1784, and was the last surviving collateral heir-male of the Rattar branch of the Caithness family, so that on the death of John, Earl of Caithness, in 1789, the succession to the earldom devolved on Sir James Sinclair of Mey, in default of heirs-male of the Greenland and Rattar family.

In reference to the settlement of the Freswick estates,

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The Sinclairs of Freswick.

he wrote, in 1782, to his second cousin, Dr. William Sinclair of Lochend, afterwards of Freswick: "I look on my grandfather (John Sinclair of Rattar) as the head of my family; from his descendants I never will give away what my father left me, but of these I will choose him I think the most worthy. A cousin or a nephew are equal with me in the scale. Whoever merits most will be preferable." Accordingly, on 30th May 1775, he executed a strict entail of the estates, in the destination of which he preferred the descendants of his paternal aunt, Barbara, daughter of John Sinclair of Rattar, and two of the younger sons of William, tenth Earl of Caithness, great-grandsons of John of Rattar, to the children of his sister, Mrs. Sinclair of Barrock, his nephew, William, the second son of Barrock, being the last named substitute of entail. The estates were settled (1st), on the heirs-male and female of his own body; (2d), on Robert Sinclair, eldest grandson of his aunt, Barbara, and her husband, John Sinclair of Forss; (3d), on Dr. William Sinclair, another grandson of Barbara Sinclair and John Sinclair of Forss; (4th and 5th), on his cousins, William and James, younger sons of William Sinclair of Rattar, tenth Earl of Caithness; and (lastly), on his nephew, William Sinclair, Writer to the Signet, the second son of Alexander Sinclair of Barrock, by his sister, Jean. This settlement of the estates was the cause of great dissatisfaction to his sisters, who, in a process of reduction in 1789 for setting it aside, complained of the entail as "disinheriting them

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and preferring a person who, although a relation of the family, was not even the nearest heir-male." The Sinclairs of Freswick.

John Sinclair is described as a man of quick parts, but proud and extravagant, and inattentive to his affairs.

VII. ROBERT SINCLAIR OF FRESWICK, eldest son of James Sinclair of Holburnhead, and afterwards of Forss, succeeded in 1784, and died at Dunbeath Castle, without issue, in November 1794.[1] He married Esther Bland, said to have been an actress, and to have been the sister, or near relative, of the celebrated Mrs. Jordan.

VIII. WILLIAM SINCLAIR OF LOCHEND, which estate he acquired by purchase, in 1778, for £2015, was grandson of John Sinclair of Forss, and Barbara Sinclair, and succeeded his cousin-german, Robert Sinclair of Freswick, in 1794. He was a Doctor of Medicine, and practised for many years in Thurso, and the county generally, before succeeding to the estates. He acquired Thura by purchase in 1801. He was twice married; and died on 15th March 1838, aged 90.

By his first wife, Isabella, daughter of Alexander Calder, last laird of Lynegar, who died in 1812, he had—

1. John, who died unmarried in 1832 in the twenty-second year of his age.
1. Barbara Madelina Gordon, the late Mrs. Thomson Sinclair of Freswick, twin sister of John.

[1] Retour 6th October.

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The Sinclairs of Freswick.

2. Isabella, who married Mr. Thomas Cochrane Hume of Halifax, North America,[1] and had a son, William Sinclair Hume, who died 9th October 1859, in early life, and two daughters; of whom one died young, and the other, Isabella Barbara, married Captain John Hobhouse Inglis Alexander of Southbar, R.N., and has issue.

In 1816 William Sinclair married, secondly, his cousin, Jane, daughter of John Sinclair of Barrock, by whom he had a son and three daughters:—

1. William James John Alexander, his successor.
1. Williamina, who died young.
2. Janet Sinclair Traill, who died in June 1870, at Torquay, unmarried.
3. Jane, who married Major-General Augustus Halifax Ferryman, and died in 1851, leaving one child, Augustus Hamilton Ferryman, now of Lochend and Thura.

IX. WILLIAM JAMES JOHN ALEXANDER SINCLAIR OF FRESWICK succeeded his father in 1838, while yet in minority. He served for a short time in the Army, and died unmarried at Nottingham House, on 20th February 1855, in the thirty-second year of his age, and was succeeded by his half-sister, Barbara. He possessed good natural abilities, and but for his delicate health would, had his life been prolonged, have taken a lead in the

[1] On 28th January 1840.

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county. In 1847 he issued an address to the Electors of Caithness, offering to represent the county in Parliament on Conservative principles, but he did not go to the poll.

X. MRS. BARBARA MADELINA GORDON THOMSON SINCLAIR OF FRESWICK married William Thomson, Esq., Deputy Commissary-General of the Forces, and had an only child, William Sinclair Thomson Sinclair.

XI. WILLIAM SINCLAIR THOMSON SINCLAIR, NOW OF FRESWICK, was born 8th April 1844, married on 18th June 1872 Isabella, eldest daughter of James Henderson, Esq. of Bilbster, and in 1876 succeeded to the family estates on the death of his mother.

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THE SINCLAIRS OF MEY.

The Sinclairs of Mey.

I. WILLIAM SINCLAIR, second son of George, fourth Earl of Caithness, obtained a charter in March 1572 from his father, of the lands of Mey, and was thus the first laird of Mey. He died unmarried.

II. GEORGE SINCLAIR, SECOND OF MEY, succeeded his brother, William, and in 1573 got a precept of *clare constat* from Robert, Bishop of Caithness. In 1585 and 1592 he obtained Crown charters. In 1572 the Bishop appointed him Chancellor of the diocese of Caithness. He was a man of ability, who lost no opportunity of promoting his family interests, and considerable additions to the family estates were made by him.

Before 1583 he married Margaret, daughter of William, seventh Lord Forbes, and he died in 1616. He had four sons and five daughters :—

1. William, his heir.
2. Sir John, of Geanies and Dunbeath.
3. James, who died young.
4. Alexander of Latheron, ancestor of the Sinclairs of Barrock and Brabster.

1. Janet, eldest daughter, who married Walter Innes of Inverbrakie.

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2. Margaret, who married, in 1608, Alexander Sinclair of Forss. The Sinclairs of Mey.
3. Barbara, who married Alexander Keith of Pittendrum, in 1610.
4. Elizabeth, who married William Dunbar, first of Hempriggs in Morayshire, and grandfather of Sir William Dunbar of Hempriggs, etc., in Caithness.
5. Anne.

III. Sir William Sinclair of Mey was created a knight,[1] and was styled Sir William of Cadboll. In 1600 he married Katharine, second daughter of George Ross of Balnagown, and was succeeded by his son, Sir James. It has been supposed that Sir William was created a baronet, but this is doubtful; and in the Great Seal charters of 1623 and 1636 he is mentioned as "Miles" only.

In 1595 a mutiny broke out among the scholars and gentlemen's sons attending the High School of Edinburgh, arising from a dispute with the magistrates as to their vacation. They laid in provisions in the schoolroom, manned the same, and took in arms with powder and bullets; and refused all entrance to masters or magistrates until their claims were conceded. After a day passed in this manner, the Council resolved on strong measures, and a posse of officers, headed by Bailie John Macmoran, proceeded to the school, and failing to

[1] Charters 1623, 1636.

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The Sinclairs of Mey.

persuade the scholars to surrender, attempted to prize open the doors. The scholars, finding no attention paid to their threats, to "put a pair of bullets through the best of their cheeks," unless they desisted, "one Sinclair, the Chancellor of Caithness' son, presented a gun from a window, direct opposite to the bailies' faces, boasting them and calling them *buttery carles*. Off goeth the charged gun, pierced John Macmoran through his head, and presently killed him, so that he fell backward straight to the ground without speech at all." The culprit was William, afterwards Sir William Sinclair of Mey; but in the end he and seven other youths implicated got clear off.[1]

The following description of Barrogill Castle, at this period, is taken from a poem dedicated to the Earl of Caithness and Sir William St. Clair of Cadboll :—

"Sir, sighting now thyself and palace faire,
I find a novelty, and that most rare;
The time though cold and stormie, sharper sun,
And far to summer, scarce the spring begun,
Yet with good luck in Februar, Saturn's prey
Have I not sought and found out fruitful May
Flank'd with the marine coast prospective stands
Right opposit to the Orcade Isles and lands,
Where I, for flowers, engorged strong grapes of Spain,
And liquor'd French, both red and white amaine.
Which palace doth contain, two four-squared courts
Graft with brave works, where th' art drawn pensile spourts
On halls, high chambers, galleries, office bowers,
Cells, rooms, and turrets, platforms, stately towers."

[1] Chambers's "Domestic Annals," vol. i. pp. 261, 262.

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The Sinclairs of Mey.

IV. Sir James Sinclair was styled, in his father's lifetime, of Canisbay, as appears from a tack of teinds, dated 14th June 1635, by Sir William and Sir James, and from a Crown charter in favour of both, dated 17th February 1636. As before stated, it is doubtful whether his father was more than a mere knight, and if Sir James was so called in his father's lifetime there must have been a separate creation. His uncle, Sir John of Geanies and Dunbeath, to whose baronetcy he is supposed to have succeeded, was alive long after 1636, but if Sir James was so styled in the lifetime of his father and uncle, he may have been merely knighted, and may still have afterwards taken up his uncle's baronetcy.[1] Sir James married Elizabeth, daughter of Patrick, Lord Lindores, and died in 1662. He had five sons and two daughters :—

1. John,[2] who died young.
2. William, his successor.
3. Robert of Durran.—(*Vide* Durran.)
4. James[2] of Stangergill, who died without issue.
5. George of Olrig.—(*Vide* Olrig.)

1. Anne, eldest daughter, who married George, first Earl of Cromarty.

[1] [Sir James Sinclair of Canisbay was created a Baronet June 2, 1631, with remainder "hæredibus suis masculis et assignatis quibuscunque." The precept for the patent is on record.]

[2] [This John and James seem to have been really one person, namely, John, of Stangergill, intermediate between William and Robert: his property, on his death *s.p.*, was inherited by Robert. In 1645 Sir James granted a bond over Stangergill to John, his "second son." In a discharge, dated 1667, Sir William enumerates his younger brothers as John, Robert, and George.]

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The Sinclairs of Mey.

2. Elizabeth, who married her cousin, William Sinclair of Dunbeath.

V. Sir William Sinclair of Canisbay and Mey was infeft in Mey in 1662 as heir to his father, on a precept of *clare constat* by the Bishop of Caithness. He married Margaret, second daughter of George, second Earl of Seaforth, and had two sons and three daughters:—

1. Sir James, his heir.
2. George.

1. Elizabeth, eldest daughter, who married John Sinclair of Rattar.
2. Barbara, who married David Sinclair of Freswick.
3. Mary.

The estate was so involved in debt by Sir William that it was, after his death, judicially sold by his creditors in 1694.

VI. Sir James Sinclair of Mey married—first, Frances, daughter of Sir John Towers of that Ilk and of Inverleith;[1] and, secondly, Jean, daughter of Francis Sinclair of Northfield, second son of George, fifth Earl of Caithness.

The estates having been judicially sold for the debts of Sir James's father, they were purchased by his cousin, Viscount Tarbet, afterwards Earl of Cromarty, who had

[1] [This first marriage is given on Douglas's authority. It was Sir James's contemporary, Sir John Sinclair of Longformacus, who married the daughter and heir of Sir John Towers of Inverleith.]

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married his aunt, and in 1698 Lord Tarbet reconveyed them to the family by a disposition and deed of entail, "*animo donandi*," in favour of James, eldest son of Sir James Sinclair, and other heirs. The Sinclairs of Mey.

By his first marriage Sir James Sinclair had a son and a daughter :—

Sir James, his heir.

Barbara, who married Francis Sinclair of Stirkoke.

Sir James had also a natural son, John, who held a wadset of Hollandmake, conveyed to him by his father.

VII. Sir James Sinclair of Mey, third of the name, married Mary, daughter of James, Lord Duffus, and had three sons and a daughter :—

1. Sir James. 2. William. 3. Kenneth. 1. Margaret.

VIII. Sir James Sinclair, fourth of the name, obtained a Crown charter in 1740,[1] and married Margaret, daughter of John Sinclair of Barrock, by whom he had two sons :—

1. Sir John.
2. William, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Sinclair, merchant in Thurso, second son of Alexander Sinclair, last laird of Dun. He had a son, John, captain in the 79th Foot, who was killed at Waterloo, and a daughter, Williamina, who died unmarried. It is thought he had a second daughter, who was married.

[1] Retour, 10th February 1740.

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The Sinclairs of Mey.

IX. Sir John Sinclair of Mey was served heir of taillie and provision in 1763, and married Charlotte, second daughter of Eric, Lord Duffus, by whom he had a son and a daughter :—

Sir James.

Margaret, who married the Reverend William Leslie, of Darkland, by whom she had a son and seven daughters, viz., Archibald, who married, and left issue ; Charlotte, who married Arthur Geddes, and had issue ; Anne, who married Charles Black, and had issue ; Elizabeth, who married Captain Van Barly, and had issue ; Isabella, who married James Imlach, and had issue ; Jessie or Janet, who married Colonel Peter Dunbar, and had issue ; Mary, who married Patrick Cameron, and had issue ; and Helen, who married Peter Brown of Linkwood, and had issue.

X. Sir James Sinclair of Mey, eighth baronet, and ninth in descent from George of Mey, Chancellor of Caithness, was served heir to his father in 1785 ; and on the death of John, eleventh Earl of Caithness, he was served in May 1790, as nearest and lawful heir-male of William St. Clair, second Earl of Caithness of the line of St. Clair, and thereafter took the dignity of Earl of Caithness. *Vide* Earls of Caithness.

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THE SINCLAIRS OF ULBSTER.

The Sinclairs of Ulbster.

THE ancestor of this family was William Sinclair, first laird of Mey, the second son of George, fourth Earl of Caithness, who granted him the lands of Mey in 1572. His elder brother, John, Master of Caithness, having, with his connivance, been imprisoned by his father in Girnigo Castle, he was, on the occasion of a visit to the dungeon of the Master, laid hold of and strangled by him. This event took place in 1572 or 1573, for in the latter year his brother, George, got a precept of *clare constat* as his heir. By Margaret, daughter of James Mowat of Buchollie and Lucy Gordon, daughter of Gordon of Gight, he left two sons, Patrick and John. In the Great Seal Record, Edinburgh, Lib. 45, No. 18, there occurs a legitimation, dated 20th June 1607, "Patricio et Magistro Joanni Sinclair filiis naturalibus quondam Willelmi Sinclair de Mey." Further notices of the family are to be found in "Stewartiana," 1843, by Mr. John Riddell, Advocate; in "The Gentleman's Magazine," vol. xx. p. 260; and in Father Hay's account of the St. Clairs of Roslyn, printed in 1845.

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The Sinclairs of Ulbster.

I. PATRICK SINCLAIR, FIRST OF ULBSTER, got a disposition of these lands in 1596 from his cousin, George, fifth Earl of Caithness, and, dying without issue, he was succeeded by his brother, John.

II. JOHN SINCLAIR OF ULBSTER was a man of education and ability, and as his name is seldom mentioned without the prefix of Mr. or "Maister," there is ground for thinking that he was brought up as a pedagogue or teacher, although it was not unusual to designate as "Maister" gentlemen of landed property, as well as pedagogues, preachers, notaries, and the like. In 1601 the General Assembly arranged that certain ministers should plant themselves in the families of the Catholic nobles; and Lord Gordon, eldest son of the Marquis of Huntly, and the Master of Caithness, eldest son of the Earl, "were brought up together under the care of two pedagogues, Thomas Gordon and John Sinclair, who were compelled to declare themselves adherents of the reformed faith." That John Sinclair, the pedagogue, was John Sinclair, afterwards Mr. John Sinclair of Ulbster, seems to admit of no doubt, for we find by a letter from him to his uncle, George of Mey, that, in 1604, he and the Master lived in the family of the Marquis of Huntly at Bogg Gight; and in regard to the Master he writes: "always the Mr. is verie weill, God be praysit, and commends him heartily to you."[1]

[1] "Domestic Annals of Scotland."

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The Sinclairs of Ulbster.

John Sinclair was twice married—first, to Jean Chisholm, who is no doubt the "Kesolme, daughter to the laird of Straglass," who is said by Hay to have married the first laird of Ulbster; and, secondly, to Katharine Stewart. By his first wife he had two sons and a daughter:—

1. Patrick, his successor.
2. George, a merchant in Leith.
1. Henrietta, who married William Abernethy (son of John, Bishop of Caithness), who was minister of Halkirk in 1627, and of Thurso in 1636.

By his second wife John Sinclair had a son and two daughters:—

1. John of Tannach and Brims, who served in the German wars, and in 1660 purchased Brims from the heirs of the first Sinclairs of Dunbeath. He married Ann Goldman, and had three sons and two daughters:—John, afterwards of Ulbster; William of Thrumster[1] (who married Margaret, daughter of James Innes of Thursater); and Charles; Jean, who married Francis Sinclair of Dun, and afterwards David Sinclair of Southdun; and Elizabeth, who married William Sinclair of Rattar.

John Sinclair of Tannach had two natural

[1] William Sinclair of Thrumster seems also to have had Oust, for his wife had it in liferent, but at all events their son, William, had Oust, which he disponed in 1719 to John Sinclair of Brims.

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The Sinclairs of Ulbster.

sons, one of whom was James, probably James Sinclair "in Lythmore," and the same James Sinclair who, in 1702, obtained from his brother, John of Ulbster and Brims, a wadset of Holborn-head, Uttersquoy, and Sandiquoy.

III. PATRICK SINCLAIR OF ULBSTER was served heir to his father, John, in 1640, and in 1647 he married Elizabeth, daughter of John M'Kay of Strathy and Dirlot. He had two sons and seven daughters :—

1. John, his successor.
2. Sir George of Bilbster and Clyth, who married Jean, daughter of William Sinclair of Dunbeath, and had no issue. He had, however, three natural daughters :—Jean, who married William Sinclair, younger of Thrumster, Mary, and Anne.

Patrick Sinclair's daughters were :—

1. Anne, who married Francis Sinclair of Stirkoke.
2. Elizabeth, who married, in 1660, John Sinclair of Brabster.
3. Mary, who married, in 1675, Sir Robert Dunbar of Northfield.
4. Isabel, who married, in 1673, George, eldest son of James Sinclair of Assery.
5. Margaret, who married, in 1679, her cousin-german, Hugh M'Kay of Cairnloch, son of John M'Kay of Skerray.

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6. Jean, who married Angus M'Kay, apparent of Bighouse.
7. Katharine, who married James Sinclair of Lybster.

In 1660 Patrick Sinclair and his son, John, purchased from the Earl of Caithness, for 22,485 merks, or little more than £1200 sterling, East and Mid Clyth, Roster, and Tannach. In 1676 Lord Glenorchy granted a wadset of West Clyth, and the rest of that estate, redeemable for 15,465 merks, and in 1706 he disponed these lands so wadsetted, and Swordale, Aimster, Carsgo, Gerston, Achscoraclate, Stainland or Staneland, and fishings of Thurso.

IV. JOHN SINCLAIR OF ULBSTER, married Janet, daughter of William Sinclair of Rattar and his second wife Jean Cunningham.

Having no family, John Sinclair settled the estates, in 1709, by an entail, the first substitute called being his cousin, John Sinclair of Brims, the eldest son of John of Tannach and Brims, and the subsequent heirs being Charles Sinclair of Bilbster, George M'Kay of Bighouse, George Sinclair of Brabster, Patrick, his brother, John Sinclair of Lybster, William, Robert, and George, his brothers, John Sinclair of Assery, Patrick Dunbar of Bowermadden, and his brothers, William, James, and David, the whole substitutes, except John Sinclair of Brims, being the descendants of his sisters.

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The Sinclairs of Ulbster.

V. JOHN SINCLAIR OF BRIMS AND ULBSTER was twice married, first to Jean, daughter of Munro of Culrain, and, secondly, to Jean Cores. By his first marriage he had four sons and three daughters :—

1. John, his successor.
2. Patrick of Brims. There is a tradition that he had an intrigue with a daughter of James Sinclair of Uttersquoy, who was probably the natural brother of John Sinclair of Brims and Ulbster, and that she having mysteriously disappeared, was supposed to have been made away with by Sinclair, and her body concealed in the castle, which consequently had the reputation of being haunted. Patrick left the county, and is said to have enlisted in the Guards.
3. James of Holbornhead. This property was disponed to him by his father, and by him sold to Robert Sinclair of Geise.
4. Gustavus, a merchant in Leith.

1. Sidney, eldest daughter.
2. Jean or Janet, who married, first, Benjamin Dunbar, younger of Hempriggs; and, secondly, George, third Lord Reay.
3. Elizabeth, who married John M'Kay, second of Strathy.

VI. JOHN SINCLAIR OF ULBSTER, sometime younger of Brims, married Henrietta, daughter of George Brodie

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of Brodie, and died in 1736. He had three sons and a daughter:— The Sinclairs of Ulbster.

1. George, his successor.
2. James of Harpsdale, who married, first, Marjory, daughter of David Sinclair of Southdun, by whom he had two daughters, Henrietta of Southdun, and Janet, who married Colonel Williamson of Banniskirk. His second wife was Mally Sutherland, Spinningdale, by whom he had a son, Alexander, who died young. His third wife was Katharine, daughter of Alexander Sinclair of Lybster, by whom he had two daughters, Katharine, who married Major George Williamson, and Helen, who married Captain David Brodie of Hopeville (Sibster).
3. Captain John Sinclair, in "Burke," called *Major* John, who married Elizabeth, widow of John Wilmer, Esquire.

1. Æmelia, only daughter, married John Sutherland of Forse.

VII. GEORGE SINCLAIR OF ULBSTER married Janet, daughter of Lord Strathnaver. He died in 1776, and left a son and three daughters:—

1. John, his successor.

1. Helen, eldest daughter, who married Alexander Campbell of Barcaldine, whose daughter, Jane, married James, Earl of Caithness, in 1784.

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The Sinclairs of Ulbster.

2. Mary, who married James Homerigg of Gamalshiels.
3. Janet, who married William Baillie of Polkemmet, Lord Polkemmet of the Court of Session.

VIII. Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster was born in 1754, and was created baronet in 1788, with remainder, in default of male issue, to the male issue of his daughters. He married, first, in 1776, Sarah, daughter of Alexander Maitland of Stoke Newington; and, secondly, in 1788, Diana, daughter of Alexander, first Lord Macdonald, and had issue by both marriages. He was succeeded by his son, of his second marriage, Sir George Sinclair.

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THE SINCLAIRS OF DURRAN.

The Sinclairs of Durran.

CALDER mentions a "Sinclair of Durran" in 1621, who, having been ejected by the Bishop's Chamberlain from lands which he occupied as tenant under the Earl of Caithness, killed one Lindsay, to whom the lands had been given. The Earl held church lands in feu, but had been deprived of them, and as the lands of Durran seem, in 1657 and 1659, to have belonged to the bishopric, it is probable that they were the lands from which Sinclair had been ejected; and that he was styled of Durran as the occupier only, or perhaps the wadsetter under the Earl. Of what family this Sinclair of Durran was we cannot say; but he seems to have been "kinsman" to Sir Andrew Sinclair, envoy for the King of Denmark, for whose intervention he applied to obtain his pardon for the murder of Lindsay. Of Sir Andrew's connection with the county we have no account.

I. ROBERT SINCLAIR, third son of Sir James Sinclair of Canisbay, and the great-grandson of George, fourth Earl of Caithness, was styled of Durran; but until 1717, when Lord Glenorchy granted a disposition to John

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The Sinclairs of Durran.

Sinclair of Durran, of the lands of Durran, and of Stangergill, Thurdistoft, and others, which now form part of the Castlehill estate, the Durran estate was held in wadset from the Earl of Caithness, by Sir William Sinclair of Cadboll and Sir James of Canisbay.

Robert Sinclair married,[1] in 1678, Anne, youngest daughter of William Sinclair of Rattar, afterwards styled "Lady Harland," and had a son and two daughters:—

1. John, his successor.

1. Anne, who was third wife of James Sutherland of Langwell, and on his death married John Sinclair of Barrock.

2. Janet.

II. JOHN SINCLAIR OF DURRAN married Elizabeth, eldest daughter of George Sinclair of Barrock,[2] by his second wife, Elizabeth Murray. He died in 1728, and had four sons and a daughter:—

1. Robert, who died in 1725.
2. John, who died in 1727.
3. James, afterwards of Durran.
4. George, Major in the 65th Regiment, who died without issue.

1. Jean, who married her cousin-german, James Sutherland of Swinzie. *Vide* Swinzie.

[1] Contract of Marriage, March 1.

[2] Douglas.

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III. JAMES SINCLAIR OF DURRAN married, first, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Patrick Dunbar of Northfield, by his second wife, Katharine, daughter of Joseph Brodie of Milntown. By this marriage Tister came into the family,[1] Sir Robert Dunbar having, in 1758, given a disposition in favour of his daughter and husband in liferent, and to the heirs of the marriage in fee. James Sinclair died in 1793, and had three sons and four daughters:— The Sinclairs of Durran.

1. Patrick, his successor.
2. George, Writer to the Signet, who married in 1775 Elizabeth, daughter of John Sutherland of Forse. He died in 1779, leaving a son, John Sutherland, Lieutenant-Colonel in the Royal Artillery, who was three times married, and died in 1841. By his first marriage, to Miss Gamble, Colonel Sinclair had two sons, George, W.S., who died in 1834, and John, Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery, who died in 1828, and a daughter; all of whom died unmarried. By his second marriage, to Miss Ramsay, he had two daughters, and by his third marriage, to Euphemia, daughter of Thomas Buchan of Auchmacoy,[2] he had several children, of whom there are surviving James Augustus and Charles Home.
3. Major Robert,[3] who died at Bombay, in 1793, unmarried.

[1] "Gentleman's Magazine." [2] Died December 1872.
[3] "Gentleman's Magazine."

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The Sinclairs of Durran.

1. Margaret, who married Patrick Honyman of Graemsay.
2. Katharine, who married Alexander, son of James Robertson of Bishopmiln.
3. Elizabeth, who married William Robertson of Auchinroath.

James Sinclair married, secondly, Dorothea Bruce, by whom he had an only child—

John, who seems to have died young before 1789.

IV. PATRICK SINCLAIR OF DURRAN, Captain in Royal Navy, died at St. Domingo in 1794, in command of the Frigate "Iphigenia." He married Anne, daughter of James Sinclair Sutherland of Swinzie, and had two sons and a daughter:—

1. Patrick, who died young and unmarried.
2. James.

1. Katharine.

V. JAMES SINCLAIR OF DURRAN was a Lieutenant of Marines. He was killed in action in 1801, at cutting out the French Corvette "La Chevérité," and was succeeded by his sister, Katharine.

VI. KATHARINE SINCLAIR OF DURRAN married Captain John Worth of Oakley, R.N., and died in 1849, leaving a daughter—

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Mary Katharine, who married, in 1834, Admiral Sir Baldwin Walker, Bart., K.C.B., etc., etc., who died in 1876, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Baldwin Walker, a Lieutenant in the Navy. The Sinclairs of Durran.

The estate of Durran was sold in 1827 by Mrs. Worth to the late Alexander, thirteenth Earl of Caithness, for £15,000. The nearest existing respresentatives of the family in the *male* line are the two sons of Colonel John Sutherland Sinclair, namely, James Augustus and Charles Home Sinclair, both of whom are married. The family of Sinclair of Durran is next in succession to the earldom of Caithness, on failure of heirs-male of the present Earl.

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THE SINCLAIRS OF OLRIG.

The Sinclairs of Olrig.

I. The first of the family of Sinclairs of Olrig was George, fifth son of Sir James Sinclair of Canisbay. He married Elizabeth, daughter of his relative, Alexander Sinclair of Latheron, and widow of Walter Bruce of Ham. He had a son, Alexander.

John, Master of Berriedale, granted a wadset of Olrig to Sir William Sinclair of Mey, and his son, Sir James, for 8000 merks, which the latter assigned as a provision to his son, George; and in 1708 Lord Glenorchy sold the property to Alexander Sinclair, then of Olrig, for 12,900 merks, or about £650 sterling, "reserving the swans and swans' nests on the Loch of Durran."

II. Alexander Sinclair of Olrig married Katharine, daughter of Donald Budge of Toftingall, and was killed in a duel, in 1710, by William Innes of Sandside. He had four sons and three daughters:—

1. Donald, his successor.
2. James, who was in Duncansbay and Warse in 1739-1747, and who was also a merchant in Freswick.

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3. Alexander.
4. William.
1. Elizabeth, who married Charles Sinclair of Bilbster.
2. Esther, who married John Sinclair of Forss.
3. Katharine, who married William Budge of Toftingall, W.S. William Budge married a Katharine Sinclair, and in 1741 James Sinclair, Tacksman of Warse, and son of Alexander Sinclair of Olrig, is mentioned as "brother-in-law" of William Budge.

Esther and Katharine Sinclair were both alive and widows in 1767.—(Proof in Rattar's Peerage case.)

III. DONALD SINCLAIR OF OLRIG AND BILBSTER married Fenella, only daughter and heiress of Charles Sinclair of Bilbster, and had a son and a daughter :—

1. Charles, his successor.
1. Henrietta, who is mentioned in 1786 as relict of Captain Benjamin Moodie.

IV. CHARLES SINCLAIR OF OLRIG married Elizabeth, daughter of Eric, Lord Duffus, and Elizabeth Dunbar, daughter of Sir James and Dame Elizabeth Dunbar of Hempriggs. He had a son and three daughters :—

1. Donald, his successor.
1. Fenella.
2. Elizabeth.
3. Janet.

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The Sinclairs of Olrig.

V. DONALD SINCLAIR OF OLRIG died without issue, and was succeeded by his sister, Fenella.

VI. MRS. FENELLA SINCLAIR OF OLRIG married Archibald Cullen, Barrister-at-Law, and had two sons and four daughters :—

1. William, Major-General in the Madras army.
2. David, who died young.

1. Elizabeth.
2. Anna.
3. Sinclair.

These three daughters died young.

4. Marion Robina, who married Edward Marjoribanks, Esquire.

The lands of Olrig and Bilbster were sold by Mrs. Cullen.

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THE SINCLAIRS OF DUNBEATH AND LATHERON.

The Sinclairs of Dunbeath and Latheron.

I. About 1624 Dunbeath was purchased by Sir John Sinclair of Geanies, second son of George Sinclair of Mey, from Lord Forbes, to whom it had been disponed by George Sinclair, the last of the *first family* of the Sinclairs of Dunbeath. Sir John Sinclair had made a fortune as a merchant, and he had acquired possessions in Ross-shire, as well as Dunbeath, Stemster, and Brabster-myre in Caithness.

In 1631 he was created a knight baronet[1] by patent to him and the "heirs-male of his body," according to Douglas, but by Wood's Peerage the title was to his "heirs-male whatsoever." It has been supposed that this is the original baronetcy still in the Mey family, and which was taken up by his nephew, Sir James Sinclair of Mey, the son of his immediate elder brother, William. If this has not been the case, and that the baronetcy was limited to heirs-male of his body, it is extinct.

[1] [This Sir John was only a knight. As to the Mey baronetcy, see p. 63, note.]

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The Sinclairs of Dunbeath and Latheron.

Sir John was twice married. His second wife, as appears from an inscription[1] in the family burying-place at Latheron, was Christian, daughter of Magnus Mowat of Buchollie. He had no sons, and of his three daughters, the second and third were of his second marriage, but of which marriage the other was is uncertain.[2] The daughters were—

1. Margaret, who married Hugh Rose of Kilravock.
2. Gemma, who died young.
3. Christian, who died unmarried.

On his daughter, Margaret, Sir John settled 50,000 merks and lands in Ross-shire; the remainder of his property he distributed among the sons of his brother, Alexander Sinclair of Latheron.

Alexander Sinclair was wadsetter of Latheron, of which he got a charter in 1635, but his descendants acquired the reversion, and held the lands in fee, and he

[1] The inscription referred to is much obliterated, but the following seems to be a probable rendering of the original Latin:—"John Sinclair of Dunbeath, crowned knight, erected this monument to his dearly beloved ones—namely, to his wife, Christian Muat, daughter of Magnus, Lord of Bollquholly, who died prematurely, in the bloom of life, and to his daughters, etc.

THEIR EPITAPH.

This monument covers ladies turned into ashes, whose names were Gemma and Christian; the one was cut off in early life, the other in old age. Their mother was the second wife of the Knight of Dunbeath. There might have been a more abundant list of the innumerable praises of both had this small monument admitted. Learn hence, O Mortal, that the divinities who spin the fatal threads of life, spare neither young nor old."

[2] [He afterwards married Catherine, daughter of Hugh, seventh Lord Lovat. Christian Mowat was mother of Margaret.—Family of Kilravock (Spalding Club), p. 339.]

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seems also to have had some rights over Stemster. He married, in 1632, Jean, daughter of John Cunningham of Brownhill. In 1647 he was dead. He left four sons and three daughters :— The Sinclairs of Dunbeath and Latheron.

1. William of Dunbeath and Geanies.
2. John of Brabster-myre, ancestor of the family of Sinclair-Sutherland of Brabster.
3. Alexander of Stemster, who married Anna, daughter of Sir James Sinclair of Murkle, and died without issue.
4. George of Barrock, ancestor of the Sinclairs of Barrock.

1. Elizabeth, who married, in 1657, Walter Bruce of Ham, and was afterwards "Lady Olrig," as wife of George Sinclair of Olrig.
2. Jean, who married, in 1651, Magnus Mowat of Buchollie.[1]
3. Margaret, who married Sir William Dunbar of Hempriggs.

II. WILLIAM SINCLAIR OF DUNBEATH, LATHERON, AND GEANIES, sometimes erroneously styled "Sir William," was a gentleman of considerable estate and position, and, in addition to his landed property, held large apprisings affecting the earldom, although before his death he appears to have had considerable debts. In 1661 he was one of the County Commissioners in the Scottish

[1] Contract of Marriage.

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The Sinclairs of Dunbeath and Latheron.

Parliament. He married, in 1656, his cousin, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir James Sinclair of Mey, who survived him, and died in 1722. He died in 1690, and had five sons and six daughters:—

1. Alexander, younger of Dunbeath, a Commissioner of Supply in 1685. He died without issue.
2. John, heir to his father.
3. William of Stemster, to which he succeeded on the death of his uncle, Alexander. He married Helen Munro, and died without issue in 1699.
4. James, afterwards Sir James.
5. David, who died without issue.

1. Anne, eldest daughter.
2. Elizabeth, who married, in 1698, James Sutherland of Langwell, and died without issue.
3. Janet, who married Andrew Bruce of Muness, Shetland, and died without issue.
4. Jean, who married, in 1682, Sir George Sinclair of Clyth.
5. Margaret.
6. Katharine, "Lady Bowermadden," who married Sir Patrick Dunbar.

The daughters are mentioned in the above order of seniority in a "Memorial" in 1754 regarding their provisions.

III. JOHN SINCLAIR, as the eldest surviving son, took up, on the death of his brother, Alexander, the

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succession to the estates of Dunbeath, Latheron, and Geanies, the last named of which he sold, in 1703, to Æneas Macleod of Cadboll. The Sinclairs of Dunbeath and Latheron.

He is said to have been a weak man, and to have made a marriage so displeasing to his father that "he conceived a mortal hatred to him." Certain it is that in addition to his wife's liferent of Dunbeath, and his own debts, his father burdened him with large provisions to his other children, besides reserving the apprisings against the earldom, amounting to 14,000 merks.

John Sinclair married Isabella, daughter of M'Kenzie of Ardloch, and had two sons and a daughter :—

1. James, his successor in Latheron.
2. William, Colonel in the Bavarian service, who left no issue. He is named in a disposition and settlement by his brother in 1746.

1. Barbara, who died unmarried.[1]

IV. James Sinclair of Latheron, and heir-apparent of Dunbeath, never got possession of the latter estate, through the machinations of his uncle, James. In 1728 he married Frances, daughter of John Sinclair of Rattar, by whom he had an only child, James.

[1] [There must have been a married daughter, Mrs. Tyrie: for David Tyrie, cabinetmaker, Edinburgh, was, on Nov. 22, 1790, served heir of line and provision special of his great-great-grandfather, Alexander Sinclair of Latheron, in the Kirktown of Latheron; on Sept. 27, 1790, heir-general of his uncle, James Sinclair of Latheron, and on Dec. 6, 1792, heir-general of his cousin, James Sinclair of Latheron.]

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The Sinclairs of Dunbeath and Latheron.

In 1751 and 1753, with consent of his son, he sold his claim to Dunbeath to his brother-in-law, William Sinclair of Freswick. He supported the Rebellion in 1745, and although considered "a weak and timid man," he collected one hundred men, and attended a muster at Spittal Hill. He also fought a duel with William Sinclair of Bridgend, son of George Sinclair of Barrock. He died in 1775.

V. JAMES SINCLAIR, THE LAST OF LATHERON, died unmarried in 1788.

Robert Manson Sinclair of Bridgend, as trustee for James Sinclair of Latheron, raised a reduction of the sale of Dunbeath to William of Freswick against his son, John, on various grounds, but after considerable litigation the process ended unsuccessfully.

VI. Reverting to the succession to the estate of Dunbeath, it appears that on the death of William Sinclair, his fourth son, James, got from his mother a renunciation of her liferent of Dunbeath, at that time worth £200 per annum, and then he ejected her from possession, a step which led to a complaint at her instance to the Privy Council. Next he bought up the family provisions and the debts due by his brother; and finally, in 1720, he adjudged Dunbeath for £48,000 Scots, and was infeft in 1722. In the same year his mother's liferent ceased by her death, and he entered on possession

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of Dunbeath. In 1704 he was created a baronet,[1] and he died in the Abbey in 1742. The Sinclairs of Dunbeath and Latheron.

Sir James Sinclair appears to have been a man of a violent and somewhat unscrupulous character. In 1734, as Baron of Dunbeath, he held a Criminal Court and adjudged one William Sinclair to death for the crime of theft. But the proceedings were quashed, and Sinclair having raised an action against Sir James, obtained large damages. In 1739 one George Sutherland raised an action for wrongous imprisonment against Sir James, in which the latter was subjected to a fine and damages, and declared incapable of public trust, in time coming.

Sir James was twice married—first, to Isabel, daughter of Sir Archibald Muir of Thornton, Provost of Edinburgh, by whom he had four sons and a daughter:—

1. William, afterwards Sir William.
2. Alexander, to whom his brother, Benjamin, was served heir.
3. Benjamin, afterwards Sir Benjamin.
4. Archibald, who died in Jamaica, unmarried.

1. Margaret, who married William Sinclair of Achingale and Newton.

Sir James married, secondly, and shortly before his death, Isabel, daughter of John Lumsden, shipmaster in Aberdeen, by whom he had a daughter—

[1] [By patent, dated Oct. 12, 1704, to him "ejusque haeredes masculos in perpetuum."—Register of the Great Seal.]

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The Sinclairs of Dunbeath and Latheron.

Jean, who married Robert Campbell, linen draper, Abbeyhill, Edinburgh.[1]

In 1721 Murdoch Campbell in Brubster married Janet, a daughter of Sir James, and probably a natural child, as no mention of her is found in the family pedigree.

VII. Sir William Sinclair of Dunbeath and Keiss succeeded his father, Sir James. Keiss was acquired by the family through a transaction with Lord Breadalbane, embracing the discharge of the apprisings against the earldom. As heir-apparent to Dunbeath, Sir William sold his interest therein, in 1752, to William Sinclair of Freswick, and, in 1753-54, he made up a title. Having fallen into pecuniary difficulties, he sold Keiss to "Ulbster" for £7000 sterling.

He married Charlotte, second daughter of Dame Elizabeth and Sir James Dunbar of Hempriggs, and had two sons and a daughter:—

1. Captain Alexander Sinclair.
2. Kennedy Muir Sinclair, of whom there are no particulars, but it is presumed he died without issue.

VIII. Captain Alexander Sinclair married Eliza-

[1] [As "wife of Lieutenant Robert Campbell,—Regt.," she was served heir to her mother, Dame Isabel Lumsden, wife of Sir James Sinclair, in Keiss and other lands, on Dec. 19, 1777. See p. 91.]

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beth, daughter of Eric Sutherland, eldest son of Kenneth, third Lord Duffus, and died before his father, leaving an only son, Alexander. The Sinclairs of Dunbeath and Latheron.

IX. Sir Alexander Sinclair went to the West Indies, and perished at sea on his passage from Jamaica to Halifax in 1786. He is not known to have left any issue.

X. Sir Benjamin Sinclair of Stemster, third son of Sir James, took up the title on the death of his grand-nephew, Sir Alexander. He was served heir to his brother, Alexander, and in 1740 he had received a disposition to Stemster from his father, but he was all his life in straitened circumstances. He married Jean, youngest daughter of John Sinclair of Assery, and had a son and two daughters:—

1. John.

1. Isabella, eldest daughter, who died unmarried. From the reduced circumstances of her father she was quite unprovided for, and was dependent on *her aunts*, "Mrs. Ayton of Kippo and Mrs. Captain Campbell of St. James' Square." Who Mrs. Ayton was does not appear, but her aunt, Jean, having married a Mr. Campbell, she is probably the Mrs. Captain Campbell mentioned.
2. Helen, who married Dr. Watson, head of the Medical Board at Madras, and had a son.

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The Sinclairs of Dunbeath and Latheron.

XI. SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, only son of Sir Benjamin, took up the style of "Sinclair of Dunbeath," as heir to the baronetcy created in 1704 in the person of his grandfather, Sir James, then in possession of that estate. After serving as lieutenant in the Sutherland Fencibles, he went to India, where he attained the rank of Major-General, and returning to England he died there in 1842. He married Miss Notley at Madras in 1803. She died in 1806. By her he had a son and a daughter:—

John Notley, who died young.

Jane, who married, in 1822, Patrick Wallace, of the Honourable East India Company's Naval Service, and has issue.

Sir John married, secondly, Sarah Charlotte Carter, who died, in 1867, without issue, at the age of 85.

Sir John was the last *heir-male* of Sir James Sinclair in the direct line, and by the death of James Sinclair of Latheron in 1788, the baronetcy opened up to the descendants of George Sinclair, first of Barrock (Sir James Sinclair's uncle), in the person of John Sinclair, fifth of Barrock, who was accordingly served heir in 1842. The heir-male of John Sinclair, first of Brabster, an elder brother of George Sinclair of Barrock, would have been prior in succession, but the Brabster male line had failed on the death of the two sons of George, third of Brabster. In the event of the failure of heirs-male of Sinclair of Durran, the family of Barrock appears to be next in succession to the earldom of Caithness.

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THE SINCLAIR SUTHERLANDS OF BRABSTER OR BRABSTER-MYRE.

The Sinclair Sutherlands of Brabster or Brabster-myre.

I. JOHN SINCLAIR, first of this family, was second son of Alexander Sinclair of Latheron, and his wife, Jean Cunningham, daughter of John Cunningham of Brownhill. On 2d December 1650 his uncle, Sir John Sinclair of Geanies and Dunbeath, disponed to him the lands of Brabster-myre, which he had acquired from the Mowat family. He had probably been involved in the political troubles of the time, for in 1658 John Murray, writer in Edinburgh (son of Murray of Pennyland), writing to Walter Bruce of Ham, who had married Brabster's sister, says—"If yqur brother-in-law, John Sinclair, be come home, he would doe weill to keep himself quiet, for this day Ortoun shews me who has been in Dalkeith, yet the General has sent ane ordere to Capt. Pantimane to apprehend him when he comes into the country." John Sinclair married Elizabeth, daughter of Patrick Sinclair of Ulbster, and had a son and a daughter:—

Alexander, his successor.

Jean, who married Harry Innes of Borlum, ancestor of the late family of Innes of Sandside.

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The Sinclair Sutherlands of Brabster or Brabster-myre.

From a bond of annuity dated 6th December 1683, John Sinclair appears to have had a second wife, for in this deed he provides an annuity of 500 merks to his "beloved bedfellow and spouse," Sibella Halcrow. This lady may have been of the Orkney family of Halcro of that ilk.

II. ALEXANDER SINCLAIR OF BRABSTER married Margaret, daughter of John Sinclair of Rattar, and had two sons :—

1. George, his successor.
2. Patrick.

After the death of Alexander Sinclair, his widow married Alexander Gibson, minister of Canisbay.

III. GEORGE SINCLAIR OF BRABSTER married Janet, second daughter of James Sutherland of Langwell, and his wife, Ann, daughter of Patrick Sinclair of Ulbster. "Lady Brabster" lived to a great age, and was a shrewd active woman when in her eighty-first year. In 1787 she purchased West Canisbay. George Sinclair had two sons and a daughter :—

1. Captain Alexander, who died in 1756.
2. James, who was drowned at Elgin.
1. Anne, his successor.

IV. MRS. ANNE SINCLAIR OF BRABSTER married, in 1762, her cousin, Robert Sutherland of Langwell, son of

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James of Langwell, and his wife, Rachel Dunbar, daughter of Dame Elizabeth and Sir James Dunbar of Hempriggs, and had two sons and a daughter :— The Sinclair Sutherlands of Brabster or Brabster-myre.

1. James, who died in his nineteenth year.
2. George, her successor.
1. Alexandrina, who married James Macbeath, and had issue.

V. GEORGE SINCLAIR SUTHERLAND OF BRABSTER married his cousin, Margaret, daughter of George Gibson, and grand-daughter of Alexander Gibson, minister of Canisbay, and his wife, Margaret, daughter of John Sinclair of Rattar. He died in 1840, and had seven sons and five daughters :—

1. Robert, Lieutenant-Colonel in the East India Company's Service, who died in 1863, without surviving issue. He married his cousin, Margaret, daughter of Donald Robeson, Writer in Thurso, who survived him, and died in 1869.
2. James.
3. George, who died without issue in 1869.
4. Alexander, who died without issue in 1862.
5. John, Captain in the East India Company's Service, who died without issue in 1844.
6. David, a merchant in America, who has issue.
7. William, M.D. in Australia, who has issue.
1. Janet, who died unmarried in 1865.
2. Anne, who died unmarried in 1824.

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The Sinclair Sutherlands of Brabster or Brabster-myre.

3. Margaret, who died unmarried in 1868.
4. Camilla, who died unmarried in 1849.
5. Elizabeth, who married the Rev. Mr. M'Gregor, and has issue, three sons.

VI. JAMES SINCLAIR SUTHERLAND OF BRABSTER succeeded in 1863, when the estate was conveyed to him by his father's trustees; and in 1865 he sold it to the Earl of Caithness for £16,500. He left two sons.

Had George Sinclair Sutherland, fifth of Brabster, been an heir-male of this family, he, as the descendant of an elder son of Alexander Sinclair of Latheron, would have succeeded in 1842, in preference to John Sinclair of Barrock, to the baronetcy of Dunbeath.

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THE SINCLAIRS OF BARROCK.

The Sinclairs of Barrock.

I. GEORGE SINCLAIR, FIRST OF BARROCK, was the fourth son of Alexander Sinclair of Latheron, and was grandson of George Sinclair of Mey. From a provision of 6000 merks received from his uncle, Sir John Sinclair of Geanies and Dunbeath, he acquired the lands of Barrock, which he held in wadset from the family of Rattar, and although the wadset was redeemed in 1673 by John Sinclair, then of Rattar, and though the lands now belong to Mr. Traill, the family designation continues to be "Sinclair of Barrock." Between 1681 and 1697 he purchased one-third of Lyth, part of Hastigrow, Fitches, and Sortopt (all of which, except Hastigrow, still form part of the family estate); and in 1698 he acquired from the Mowats the estate of Swinzie, now called Lochend.

George Sinclair was three times married, and died in 1724, aged 90 years.

By his first wife, Anne Dunbar, daughter of John Dunbar of Hempriggs, he had a son and three daughters:—

1. John, his successor.

1. Jean, who married John Sinclair of Stirkoke.

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The Sinclairs of Barrock.

2. Katharine, who married Charles Sinclair of Bilbster.

3. Margaret, who married James Murray of Clairden.

By his second wife, Elizabeth Murray, daughter of David Murray of Clairden, and widow of William Innes of Isauld and Sandside, he had three sons and two daughters:—

1. Alexander Sinclair of Swinzie, which he got from his father.—*Vide* Sinclair Sutherland of Swinzie.
2. William, who married Sidney, daughter and coheiress of George Manson of Bridge-end.—*Vide* Manson Sinclair.
3. David.

1. Elizabeth, who married John Sinclair of Durran.
2. Anne, who died unmarried.

His third wife was Elizabeth Cumming, daughter of William Cumming, the last Episcopal minister of Halkirk, and his wife Katharine, daughter of John Murray of Pennyland. By this marriage he had four sons and a daughter:—

1. James, who died abroad.
2. George.
3. Robert.
4. Benjamin, who was sometime in Duncansbay.

1. Janet, who died unmarried in 1772.

None of the sons left issue.

II. JOHN SINCLAIR, eldest son of George, was the

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second Sinclair of Barrock. Between 1696 and 1737 he purchased the following lands, viz., from the Mansons part of Kirk; also the remainder of Kirk and part of Myrelandhorn and Bowertower; from James Calder the lands of Sibster or Sibsterwick, Thurster, Heshwell, and Quoylee, parts of the Stirkoke estate; and from Sir James Sinclair of Dunbeath, Howe, Myreland, and Quintfal. In 1726 he excambed his part of Kirk, Hastigrow, and Myrelandhorn, with David Sinclair of Dun, for the other two-thirds of Lyth, Bilster, Alterwall, and Crooks of Howe. He died in 1743. The Sinclairs of Barrock.

He was twice married,[1] first to Anne, daughter of Robert Sinclair of Durran, and widow of James Sutherland of Langwell. By her he had a son and three daughters:—

1. Alexander, his successor, who was born in 1706.
1. Jean, who married George Murray of Clairden.
2. Margaret, who married Sir James Sinclair of Mey.[2]
3. Elizabeth.

His second wife was his cousin, Janet, daughter of Dame Elizabeth and Sir James Dunbar of Hempriggs.[3] She afterwards married Harry Innes of Borlum and Sandside. By her John Sinclair had three sons and a daughter:—

1. George, who was an officer in the army, and who

[1] Contract of Marriage, 25th July 1709.
[2] Contract of Marriage, 27th November 1735.
[3] Contract of Marriage, 31st December 1737.

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The Sinclairs of Barrock.

died of a wound in Antigua in 1759, while he was still a minor.

2. James, who died young.
3. John, who succeeded to Sibster, and who married Helen, daughter of George Sinclair of Stirkoke, by whom he had a son, Benjamin. The estate was judicially sold, and John Sinclair and his son left the county.

III. ALEXANDER SINCLAIR OF BARROCK married Jean, second daughter of William Sinclair of Freswick,[1] and had three sons and four daughters:—

1. John, his successor.
2. William, W.S., who died unmarried. He was last substitute in the entail executed by his uncle, John of Freswick.
3. George, bond of provision dated in 1764.
1. Katherine, who died unmarried.
2. Anne, who died unmarried.
3. Margaret, who married Colonel Borthwick, and had no issue.
4. Jean, who married William Charles Reoch,[2] and had no issue.

IV. JOHN SINCLAIR OF BARROCK married, first, Miss

[1] Contract of Marriage, 29th October 1753.
[2] Contract of Marriage, 6th August 1795.

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Ann Longmire of Penrith,[1] and had two sons and five daughters :— The Sinclairs of Barrock.

1. Alexander, who died young.
2. John, his successor.

1. Maria, who died unmarried, 9th March 1876, aged 87.
2. Jane, who married William Sinclair of Freswick.
3. Anne, who married William Smith, minister of Bower, and had issue.
4. Margaret, who married Mr. Paton, and had issue.
5. Elizabeth, who married Allan Robertson, a Lieutenant in the army, afterwards Sheriff-clerk of Caithness, and had issue, a son and several daughters.

John Sinclair's second wife was Janet Miller, by whom he had two sons and three daughters :—

1. William, who died young.
2. Donald, M.D., who died in 1873, and left issue.

1. Isabella, who married the Rev. Peter Jolly, Dunnet, and had two daughters.
2. Jessie, who married Mr. Scarth of Binscarth.
3. Catherine, who married Mr. Sime.

V. JOHN SINCLAIR OF BARROCK succeeded his father, and in 1842, on the death of General Sir John Sinclair, he took up the baronetcy of Dunbeath, granted in 1704 to James Sinclair of Dunbeath, nephew of George Sin-

[1] Postnuptial Contract of Marriage, 6th and 10th February 1796.

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The Sinclairs of Barrock.

clair, first of Barrock. In 1821 he married Margaret, daughter of John Learmonth, Esq., Edinburgh. Sir John died 21st April 1873, and was buried at Holyrood. He had three sons and a daughter :—

1. John, his eldest son, Captain in the 39th Madras Native Infantry, was killed in action, at Jhansi, in the Indian Mutiny, 5th April 1858. He was unmarried.
2. Alexander Young, Lieutenant-Colonel in the Bombay Army, died at Jeypore, Bombay, 3d February 1871. In 1861 he married Margaret Crichton, daughter of James Alston, Esq. He left two sons and a daughter :—
    1. John Rose George, who is a minor, and who has succeeded to the estate and baronetcy.
    2. Norman Alexander.
    1. Margaret.
3. George, retired Captain in the Bengal Army, married in 1859 Agnes, only daughter of John Learmonth of the Dean, and died 23d March 1871, leaving three sons.

1. Grace Elizabeth, Sir John's only daughter, died young.

His three sons were gentlemen of high character and promise, and their death in the prime of life occasioned much general regret.

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THE SINCLAIRS OF STIRKOKE.

The Sinclairs of Stirkoke.

I. In 1507 David Sinclair obtained a Crown charter of Stirkoke and Alterwall, in which he is designed "filio naturali quond. Joannis Magistri Cathanensis," and in 1588 he obtained letters of legitimation. He died before 1595, and left a son, John, as also a natural son, Colonel George Sinclair, who was slain in an expedition to Norway in 1612.

II. John Sinclair of Stirkoke was slain in a fight at Thurso in 1612. It is uncertain whether he had any issue.

III. Francis Sinclair, Laird of Stirkoke, in 1624, was a natural son of George, fifth Earl of Caithness.

In Captain Kennedy's ms. relative to Caithness matters, he states that Francis Sinclair's mother was one Barbara Mearns. In February 1670 *Christian* Mearns, daughter of William Mearns in Wick, as nearest heir of her grandfather, George Mearns of Occumster, Achavar, and Smerary,[1] and of her grand-uncle, William Mearns of

[1] Inventory of Caithness titles.

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The Sinclairs of Stirkoke.

Occumster, granted a disposition to Francis Sinclair, whose mother, if Captain Kennedy's account is correct, was perhaps of this family.

Francis Sinclair married Margaret Williamson, and had three sons and two daughters :—

1. Francis, his successor.
2. John.
3. Gustavus.

1. Marjory, who was the fifth wife of Donald, first Lord Reay, by whom he had three sons, William of Kinloch, Charles of Sandwood, and Rupert; and two daughters, Margaret, who died in Thurso in 1720, and Christian, who married, in 1650, Alexander Gunn of Killernan (Clan Gunn), and was in 1668 infeft in liferent in lands of Navidale, etc., on disposition by her husband.
2. Anne, who married Colonel Francis Sinclair in Scrabster, a son of John Sinclair, first of Assery.

IV. Francis Sinclair of Stirkoke married, in 1658, Anne, eldest daughter of Patrick Sinclair of Ulbster. His mother, Margaret Williamson, and his "uncle," Francis of Northfield, second son of George, fifth Earl, were parties to the contract of marriage, thus showing that his father, Francis, must have been one of the two natural sons of Earl George. Francis Sinclair had four sons and a daughter :—

1. Patrick, eldest son in 1676.

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2. John, his successor.
3. George, called the second son, who had a charter to Sibster-Wick in 1673-75.
4. Charles of Bilbster, who married, first, Katharine, daughter of George Sinclair of Barrock, and, secondly, Mary Dunbar. His only child, Fenella, married Donald Sinclair of Olrig. Charles Sinclair had the unenviable *sobriquet* of "Earl of Hell."
1. Jean, who married John Gibson, minister of Evie, Orkney, brother of Alexander Gibson, minister of Canisbay.

V. JOHN SINCLAIR OF STIRKOKE was served heir to his father in 1681, and died about 1706. He married Margaret, daughter of Sir James Sinclair of Mey, and had two sons:—

1. Francis.
2. George.

VI. FRANCIS SINCLAIR OF STIRKOKE had several daughters, but no male issue;[1] and in 1710 he disponed the estate to his brother, George. His daughter, Frances, was married to Bernard Clunes, merchant in Cromarty, by whom she had a family. Some litigation took place between her and her uncle in regard to the succession to

[1] 1706.

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The Sinclairs of Stirkoke.

the lands, which, under a submission, were awarded to him as heir-male.

VII. GEORGE SINCLAIR OF STIRKOKE married Isabella Strahan. He died in 1744, and had three sons and two daughters :—

1. Charles, apparent in 1768.
2. Francis, who was a shipmaster in Wick.

1. Elizabeth, who married George Smith in Dunnet.
2. Helen, who married John Sinclair of Sibster.

VIII. CHARLES SINCLAIR OF STIRKOKE married Elizabeth, daughter of Alexander Sinclair of Olrig, and had an only daughter, Katharine Sinclair of Stirkoke, who resided and died at Scorraclett unmarried.

The arms of Francis Sinclair of Stirkoke, as recorded in the Lyon Office, were :—"The quartered coat of Caithness, with the cross ingrailed, dividing the quarters, all within a *bordure gobonated* gules and or; Crest, a naked arm issuing out of a cloud, grasping a small sword, with another lying by, all proper; Motto, *Ille vincit, ego mereo.*" The "bordure gobonated" is a distinctive mark of illegitimacy.

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THE SINCLAIRS OF DUN.

The Sinclairs of Dun.

THERE is difficulty in determining with certainty the origin of the Sinclairs of Dun, but they are believed to be cadets of the Caithness family.

In a notice in Calder's "History of Caithness" they are said to have settled in Caithness in 1379, and to have possessed the lands of Dun nearly a century before any others of the name appear to have acquired a footing in the county. But no evidence has been found to support this view; and there is no reason given for fixing on so early a date as the period of the settlement of this branch of the Sinclairs in Caithness; nor indeed does it appear "that the name had any connection with the county till after the grant of the earldom in 1456," as stated by Mr. Alexander Sinclair.[1] On the other hand, it is certain that in 1508, and even at a much later period, the lands of Dun were possessed by the Caldells or Calders, and there is no trace of a "Sinclair of Dun" sooner than 1540. In that year, as appears from an old inventory of title-deeds of the Groats, which is given by Calder, one "John Sinclair of Dun" was, along with other "honest men," a witness to a deed granted by the Earl of Caithness. In

[1] Letter, March 1867.

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The Sinclairs of Dun.

1541 "David Sinclair of Dunn" was cautioner in a tack of teinds to the Earl of Caithness, and in 1544 "William Caldall of Dunn" is witness to an instrument of sasine in favour of Margaret and Helen Brisbane.

In a MS. written about 1770, by the late William Sinclair of Freswick, who was himself a descendant of the family of Dun, their progenitor is said to have been David, second son of William, second Earl of Caithness. In a charter granted in January 1560, to David Sinclair, then of Dun, by John, fifth Earl of Sutherland, and his wife Eleanor, they style him, "noster consanguineus-germanus;" but even on the supposition at one time generally entertained by genealogists, though now discarded, that Lady Marjorie, the mother of William, second Earl of Caithness, was cousin-german, or, as she is called by Gordon, "near cousin," to Elizabeth, Countess of Sutherland (the grandmother of Earl John), David, the supposed son of the Earl of Caithness, would only, after all, stand to Earl John in the degree of third cousin. If, however, as stated in the notice in Calder's "History," the relationship between David Sinclair of Dun and Earl John was merely that of "*cousins by consanguinity*," that requirement is no doubt met *if* David Sinclair really was the son of Earl William. But Earl William's only sons of whom we have certain mention are John, his successor, Alexander of Stemster, and *William*, a natural son, who was legitimized in 1542. How then David of Dun and

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Earl John could have been cousins-german, remains to be explained. The Sinclairs of Dun.

In a MS. on Caithness affairs by the late Captain Kennedy of Wick, it is said that "George, fourth Earl of Caithness, had a son called David, who begat John Sinclair of Dun and William Sinclair of Forss-Milns." This, if true, might account for the John Sinclair of 1540, mentioned in Groat's Inventory; but then there is no evidence that the fourth Earl had a son named David, although he had a *natural brother*, David Sinclair, who was Bailie to the Bishop of Caithness, and who appears in 1541 as cautioner for the Earl in a tack of the teind sheaves of Canisbay, and who is likewise mentioned as having been imprisoned by his brother in Girnigo Castle.

About the middle of the sixteenth century, and probably not later than 1557 or 1558, George, the fourth Earl, arranged a marriage between Y M'Kay of Farr, and Christian Sinclair, who is designed by Gordon as "daughter to the laird of Dun, and *cousin to the Earl.*" It is evident that, if this lady was the Earl's cousin only, the Earl could not have been the father of this laird of Dun. M'Kay, referring to this marriage, says (p. 152), that Christian Sinclair was the daughter of "*William* Sinclair, laird of Dun," and that she was the Earl's cousin. If Earl George's illegitimate uncle, William, the son of William, the second Earl, was laird of Dun, then Christian Sinclair and Earl George were certainly cousins-german; but there appears to be no evidence that

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The Sinclairs of Dun.

Christian Sinclair's father was named William, although so stated by M'Kay.

In the above-mentioned charter granted to David Sinclair of Dun, in 1560, the Earl of Sutherland gives to him in liferent, and to "*his sons*," William, Alexander, and Henry, in succession, and to the "*heirs-male of their bodies lawfully begotten*," in fee, the lands of Forss and Baillie. It appears that in 1586 a Henry Sinclair, who unquestionably was the brother of Christian, the laird of Dun's daughter, was killed in a fight with the Clan Gunn, then under command of Hutcheon M'Kay, who was a son of Christian Sinclair, and therefore Henry's own nephew. As no other Henry Sinclair is mentioned about the same period, except Henry, the son of David of Dun, it may be that Christian Sinclair's brother was the same Henry Sinclair who is named in the charter, and thus that *she* was a daughter of David Sinclair of Dun. If so, as she was "cousin to the Earl of Caithness," so must her father also have been connected with that family.

There is extant a summons dated 12th March, in the 20th year of Queen Mary—that is the year 1562—at the instance of John Sinclair, "*eldest son and heir of the deceased David Sinclair of Dun*," with consent of his curators, the Earl of Caithness and John Grote, against William Sinclair of Forss, as an intromitter with the writs and evidents of David Sinclair, immediately after his decease in March 1560. In this action William Sinclair is called upon to produce acquittances given to

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David Sinclair of Dun by the Executors of James Brodie, Archdeacon of Caithness, for rents due by the tenants in the temporal lands of the Arch-deanery, from 1547 to 1558; acquittances from 1528 to 1560, by the Bishop, for the teind sheaves of Staneland, Forss, and Baillie, and for the maills and duties of the temporal lands of the bishopric, and fitted accounts between the Bishop and David Sinclair of Dun, of his intromissions with the farms and duties of the earldom of Caithness. If David Sinclair had been the Chamberlain or Bailie of the Bishopric, the writs which William Sinclair is called upon to produce, as taken by him from the repositories of the deceased, are just such documents as David would properly have had in his possession; and it has been shown that David, a son of John, Earl of Caithness, actually held the office of Bailie to the Bishop. As this Earl lived till 1529, there is no difficulty in supposing his son to have lived till 1560; and thus, the father of John Sinclair of Dun of 1562, may have been David, the natural son of Earl John. The Sinclairs of Dun.

The summons makes no reference to any relationship between David Sinclair of Dun and William Sinclair of Forss; and thus, while it is certain that the latter was a son of the David Sinclair of Dun who got the charter in January 1560, and that John Sinclair was the son of a David Sinclair of Dun who died in March 1560, still it is not known that the two Davids were identical, and that William Sinclair of Forss and John Sinclair of Dun were brothers.

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The Sinclairs of Dun.

If the circumstance that John Sinclair sues, in 1562, *with consent of curators*, is to be taken as proof that he was then a minor, it is difficult to reconcile the fact of his having been the eldest son and heir of his father, with his being brother to William Sinclair of Forss, for the latter in 1561 had been admitted as vassal in Forss to the Earl of Sutherland; had granted deeds as owner in possession of these lands; had been witness to the execution of important deeds, and had thus conducted himself as a man of full age. But if the David Sinclair who got the charter in January 1560, and the David Sinclair who died in March of the same year, were the same, then William of Forss and John of Dun must have been brothers, and William Sinclair and his brothers, Alexander and Henry, may have been sons by a previous marriage, and John may have been made the heir to the Dun estate under some family arrangement similar to that by which William was provided with Forss and Baillie. Or, lastly, David Sinclair may have had an elder son, David, who, after succeeding to Dun, had died young and left his son and heir, John, a minor, who would thus be the nephew of William Sinclair, and not his brother. Among the writs taken possession of by William Sinclair, the summons of exhibition includes a contract between David Sinclair of Dun and the Master of Oliphant, in regard to these lands, by which the Master, who had in 1549 obtained a grant of the non-entry dues of Dun, obliged himself to give a new infeft-

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ment thereof. This deed, if it be still in existence, would no doubt throw some light on the history of the family. The Sinclairs of Dun.

Finally, there is an account of this family in Father Hay's "St. Clairs of Roslyn." It is there said: "St. Clair of Doun is a great-grand-child of John, Lord Beridall. The first of this surname who obtained these lands was one David, who married one Marie, heretrix of Doun, daughter to William Caldar, and begot John, who espoused Agatha, daughter of Heugh Grant or Grott of Souldon, upon whom he begott William, who espoused Margaret, daughter of Sir William Keith of Loutquarne, by whom he had several childering: they all dieing, their uncle, William, second sone to the foresaid John and Agatha, succeeded, and married Marjorie, daughter to Saul Bruce, Laird of Leith (Lyth), who bore to him David, his successor, married upon Janet, daughter of John Saintclare of Olbstar. This David was laird of Doun."

It is noticeable that these various accounts of the origin of the family, with the exception of the incidental reference to John of 1540, all point to a *David* Sinclair as the first laird of Dun, although they differ as to *his paternity.* But if Hay's "David, laird of Dun," who married Ulbster's daughter, was the son, as he is supposed to have been, and not the grandson of John Sinclair, as his pedigree of the family makes him to be, then this David Sinclair might have been "*the great-*

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The Sinclairs of Dun.

grand-child of John, Lord Beridall" (afterwards third Earl of Caithness), and the grandson of the Earl's natural son, David, the Bishop's Bailie. Mr. Alexander Sinclair (Ulbster), who has given much attention to genealogical subjects, writes in March 1867, "I always thought that Dun came from David, son of John, third Earl of Caithness."

JOHN SINCLAIR, eldest son and heir of David, succeeded him in these lands. In 1591 he was infeft on a charter by the Earl of Caithness, and in 1592 he got a Crown charter of confirmation. He was twice married, and had by his first wife, whose name is unknown, three sons :—

1. David, his successor, who makes reference to his father's second wife as his "mother-in-law," or step-mother.
2. James, who is mentioned by Gordon as that "brother of the laird of Dun," who was wounded in a fight in Thurso, in 1612.
3. George, designed, in 1616, as son of "Umquhile John Sinclair of Dun."

John Sinclair's second wife was Agatha Grote, no doubt the lady who is mentioned by Hay as the daughter of Hugh Grote of "Souldon." She was life-rented in Dun, and her name occurs in connection with it from 1628 to 1642. By her John Sinclair had a son—

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William, ancestor of the Southdun branch of the family. The Sinclairs of Dun.

David Sinclair of Dun, son and heir of John,[1] succeeded his father, and was twice married. He is the same David Sinclair who, in Hay's account of the family, is said to have married "*Janet*," daughter of John Sinclair of Ulbster; but it is certain, from a charter granted to him and his first wife in 1606, by the Earl of Caithness, of the tenpenny lands of Dun, that the lady's name was *Elizabeth*.

His second wife was Margaret, daughter of Donald Sutherland of Forss, who was styled "Lady Dun." She survived her husband and afterwards married Charles Calder of Lynegar.

By his first marriage David Sinclair had three sons; and by his second marriage, a daughter:—

1. Francis, his successor.
2. William, afterwards of Dun.
3. James.

1. Jean, who married George Sinclair of Forss, in 1695.

Francis Sinclair of Dun was served heir to his father, David, in 1650, and married Jean, daughter of John Sinclair of Ulbster, by whom he had a daughter—

Katharine.

William Sinclair of Dun was served heir of provision to his brother, Francis, and in 1663 he got a charter from

[1] Sasine, 1609.

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The Sinclairs of Dun.

the Archdean of Caithness of Scarmclett, Larrel, Galshfield, Clayock, and Campster. He was three times married, first in 1643, to Elizabeth, daughter of Alexander Sutherland of Forse; secondly, to Isabel, daughter of John Sinclair of Assery; and thirdly, to Katharine Sinclair, "Lady Dun," daughter of Alexander Sinclair of Telstane. He had two sons and two daughters:—

1. Alexander, his successor.
2. David.

1. Jean, who married, in 1670, William, son of John Sinclair of Assery.
2. ——, who married David Sinclair of Broynach (see Murkle), and had a son and daughter.

By which of his three wives William Sinclair had these children does not appear, but his daughter, Jean, could not have been of the second marriage, as her own husband and her father's second wife were brother and sister.

Alexander Sinclair of Dun received a disposition from his father in 1680. He was twice married. The name of his first wife has not been ascertained. His second wife was Barbara, youngest daughter of Alexander Henderson in Gerston, whom he married in 1751, but he had no issue by her. He died in 1754. He had four sons and two daughters:—

1. William, mentioned in 1731, as younger of Dun.
2. Henry, who resided in Achavrole in 1769, and who is mentioned as eldest son.

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3. Richard, a merchant in Thurso, who was drowned in crossing the river at Thurso in 1755. He married Elizabeth, sister of John M'Kay of Strathy, and left two infant daughters, Elizabeth and Janet. The former married William, second son of Sir James Sinclair of Mey, better remembered as "Willie of Mey." Janet married John Mathers, Surveyor of Customs in Thurso. Both daughters had issue, but their families are extinct. The Sinclairs of Dun.

Richard Sinclair has not only given name to "Sinclair's Pool" in Thurso river, but has also given occasion to a tale of "second sight," which, although it may have appeared in print, is here recorded. At the time of this accident there was no bridge across the river, and it was crossed at a ford, or by a ferry-boat lower down. Mr. Sinclair had crossed to the east side by the ford in the morning, and gone to the country on business. His wife had some female friends with her in the evening, which was dark and rainy; and having occasion to leave the room where her guests were, she observed, as she believed, her husband pass up-stairs to his room, and she desired the servant to carry up some fire, as he appeared to be very wet. The servant not finding her master in the room, a search was made, with the result that he was not to be found within the house. The appearance seen by Mrs. Sinclair was held to portend coming evil, and accordingly her husband was found drowned in the pool

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The Sinclairs of Dun.

which still bears his name, man and horse having been carried off from the ford by a sudden spate in the water.

4. David, the youngest son, who had a provision of 3500 merks.

1. Elizabeth, designed in 1755 as widow of Patrick Forbes. In 1737 she had a bond of provision from her father.

2. Katharine, who had a provision of 3000 merks.

The family estate had become involved in debt, and what remained of it appears to have been sold in 1751 to David Sinclair of Southdun.

The story in Calder's "History of Caithness" (p. 259) that the possessor of Dun in 1745 shot himself, because balked by his mother in keeping an engagement to join the Stewart party, is certainly without foundation, but whether William, the eldest son and apparent heir in 1731, was alive in 1745 is uncertain.

Nisbet, whose work on Heraldry was written early in last century, mentions from the Lyon Register the Arms of a "Thomas[1] Sinclair, descended from the family of Dun in Caithness," but of him there is no trace. The crest was "a demi-man holding in one hand a sea-cat, and in the other a pair of pencils, all proper," and the Motto, "Sic rectius progredior." He also mentions the Arms of a "Thomas Sinclair, son of William Sinclair, merchant in Thurso, descended of the family of Caithness:" Motto,

[1] In the Register the name is *Lawrence*, [and Nisbet's "sea-cat" is "a sea-cart," i.e. sea-chart].

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"Fear God and Live;" but whether this is the same or a different Thomas Sinclair, does not appear. The Sinclairs of Dun.

The Arms of William Sinclair of Dun were *argent*, a cross ingrailed *sable* within a bordure of the second, charged with eight plates *argent:* Crest, a man on horseback proper. Motto, "Promptus ad certamen."

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THE SINCLAIRS OF SOUTHDUN.

The Sinclairs of Southdun.

THE Sinclairs of Southdun are cadets of the family of Dun, and are descended from John Sinclair of Dun, in 1560, and his second wife, Agatha Grote, who, according to Father Hay's account of the family of Dun, was a daughter of Hugh Grote of "Souldon." There is no place in the county now known as Souldon, and it is probable that the word is a misnomer for Southdun, although no mention is found of that name until the time of John Sinclair's grandson, David, first styled of Southdun. From 1545 till about 1630 there was a family of Grote of Brabsterdorran, one of whom was named Hugh, the father, probably, of Agatha Grote; and a connection between the Grotes and the Sinclairs is shown by the circumstance of a John Grote having been one of John Sinclair of Dun's curators in 1562. John Sinclair and Agatha Grote had a son, William.

William Sinclair is occasionally styled of Dun, and also in Dun. He married Marjory, daughter of Saul Bruce of Lyth, and in this particular Hay's account of the family is confirmed, as will be seen by referring to

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the "Notes" on Bruce of Lyth. He had two sons and a daughter:— The Sinclairs of Southdun.

1. David.
2. Francis, portioner of Brabsterdorran, styled "lawful brother of David Sinclair of Southdun," in 1657.

1. Isobel, who married in 1652 Thomas Grote, son of Malcolm Grote of Warse. Malcolm Grote married Margaret, daughter of George Sinclair of Forss, and his wife, Jean, only daughter of David Sinclair of Dun, thus showing the continued connection between the Grotes and the several branches of the Sinclairs of Dun.

I. David Sinclair of *Southdun* is the first Sinclair who is so styled, and he is repeatedly mentioned in writings by Agatha Grote, the second wife of John Sinclair of Dun, as her "Oy," or grandchild. He married Jean, widow of his cousin, Francis Sinclair of *Dun*, and daughter of John Sinclair of Ulbster. He had four sons and three daughters:—

1. Patrick, his successor.
2. James of Lyth. In 1707 James Sinclair acquired from Lord Glenorchy Alterwall and part of Brabsterdorran.
3. David, in Brabsterdorran, who had a son, David of Whitegar. He fought at Sheriffmuir in 1715 on the Stewart side.

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The Sinclairs of Southdun.

4. Alexander.
1. Margaret, who married William Bruce of Stanstill.
2. Elizabeth, who married in 1672 Donald Budge of Toftingall.
3. Isobell, who married, in 1653, Lawrence Calder of Lynegar.

II. PATRICK SINCLAIR OF SOUTHDUN married Janet, daughter of James Murray of Pennyland, and had three sons and four daughters:—

1. James.
2. David.
3. Patrick.
1. Marjory, who married William Calder of Lynegar.
2. Jean.
3. Janet, who married John Sinclair of Rattar.
4. Elizabeth married Henry Budge, probably her cousin, son of Alexander Budge in Harpsdale, and grandson of Donald Budge, sixth of Toftingall. *Vide* Budge.

III. JAMES SINCLAIR OF SOUTHDUN died in minority, and was succeeded by his brother, David.

IV. DAVID SINCLAIR OF SOUTHDUN executed an entail of the estate in 1747; and considerable exchanges of property took place between him and Sinclair of Barrock. He was three times married, first in 1714 to Lady Janet,

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daughter of John, eighth Earl of Caithness, who died in 1720; secondly, to Marjory, daughter of Sir Robert Dunbar of Northfield, in 1748; and thirdly, to Margaret, daughter of James Murray of Clairden. By his first marriage he had a son and three daughters:—

1. Patrick, who died about 1724.
1. Jean, who died young.
2. Jean, second of the name, who married Sir William Dunbar of Hempriggs, and died without issue.
3. Janet, who married Dr. Stuart Threipland of Fingask, and had a son, David Sinclair, a young gentlemen of much promise, who died in 1778, and a daughter, Janet.

By his second marriage he had two daughters:—

1. Marjory, who married John, son of Sir Patrick Dunbar of Northfield, her cousin-german, and had no issue. She married thereafter James Sinclair of Harpsdale, and had a son, George, who died young, and four daughters, Henrietta of Southdun, who was married to Colonel Wemyss, and Janet, who married Colonel Williamson of Banniskirk, and Emilia and Margaret, who died unmarried.
2. Miss Katharine of Southdun, who died unmarried.

By his third marriage David Sinclair had a daughter:—

Margaret, who died at Lyons in 1774, unmarried.

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The Sinclairs of Southdun.

V. MRS. HENRIETTA SINCLAIR OF SOUTHDUN, married Colonel Wemyss, and had an only child, William.

VI. WILLIAM SINCLAIR WEMYSS OF SOUTHDUN married Henrietta, daughter of Sir Benjamin Dunbar of Hempriggs, Lord Duffus. He died in 1831, and left two sons and two daughters:—

1. David Sinclair.
2. Benjamin, who died in 1878, leaving an only child, a daughter.

1. Janet or Jessie, who married James Sinclair of Forss, and has issue.
2. Henrietta, who married Robert Innes of Thrumster, and left an only child, Henrietta, now Mrs. Bentley-Innes of Thrumster.

VII. DAVID SINCLAIR WEMYSS OF SOUTHDUN married Elizabeth, daughter of George Sackville Sutherland of Aberarder, Inverness-shire, and died 10th December 1877, aged 64. He had four sons and three daughters:—

1. William, R.N., who died young and unmarried.
2. George Sackville.
3. Robert Dunbar Sinclair.
4. Evan.

1. Henrietta Elizabeth, who married James Smith of Olrig.
2. Mary.
3. Janet.

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THE SINCLAIRS OF BRABSTERDORRAN.

The Sinclairs of Brabsterdorran.

In the seventeenth century this property seems to have been held in four different portions; one by John Henderson, another by Henry Dundas, and two by families of Mansons. In 1798 the whole was united in the family of the Sinclairs of Southdun.

Francis Sinclair, son of William in Dun, and grandson of John Sinclair of Dun and Agatha Grote, held a portion of Brabsterdorran in 1683. He married Elizabeth Sinclair (of what family she was is now unknown), and had two sons:—

1. Patrick.
2. George, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Alexander Gibson, Dean of Bower, and had an only child, Jean, who married her cousin, David Sinclair, in Whitegar, son of David Sinclair of Whitegar, the grandson of David Sinclair of Southdun. They had a son, Alexander, who was portioner of Brabsterdorran, as in right of his mother. He sold his interest, in 1780, to Miss Katharine Sinclair of Southdun. Jean Sinclair's

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The Sinclairs of Brabsterdorran.

grandfather, Francis, had a wadset for 2000 merks on Brabsterdorran, to which she as his heir had right, and about 1738 and subsequent years there was litigation in regard to the claims of Francis Sinclair's heir to the lands, it being contended that James Sinclair of Lyth had purchased the reversion of the wadset for Francis, and that the latter having died in the interim, and his grandchild being young, James had kept the reversion to himself, and had thus acquired the heritable right to Brabsterdorran.

PATRICK SINCLAIR, a portioner of Brabsterdorran, married, in 1703, Barbara, second daughter of William Cumming, Minister of Halkirk, and his wife, Katharine, daughter of John Murray of Pennyland. Patrick is said to have had two sons :—

1. William, nicknamed "La Mode." He had been a midshipman in the navy, and was thereafter in the Customs at Thurso. He married Rachel, daughter of Mr. Cumming of Craigmiln, in Morayshire, and among other children had Katharine, who married Alexander Cumming, tacksman of Rattar.
2. James, who was tide-waiter in the Customs at Thurso.

In 1670 Henry Dundas, then one of the portioners of Brabsterdorran, granted a wadset to John Sinclair

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in Brabsterdorran and Margaret, his wife, and William, their eldest son. In 1693 Margaret Sinclair, then relict of John, assigned the wadset to her son, Alexander. Whether these Sinclairs were connected with the Brabsterdorran, or Dun and Southdun families, has not been ascertained. The Sinclairs of Brabsterdorran.

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THE SINCLAIRS OF FORSS.

The Sinclairs of Forss.

PREVIOUS to 1557 the lands of Forss and Baillie belonged to the Bishopric, but in that year they were feued out to John, Earl of Sutherland, and Eleanor, his wife; and in January 1560 they were granted in feu by the Earl and his Lady to David Sinclair of Dun, in life-rent, and to his three sons, William, Alexander, and Henry, and to the heirs-male of their bodies lawfully begotten, in succession, in fee. Who David Sinclair of Dun was is uncertain, further than that he was in all probability of the Caithness family. It is understood that in the charter of 1560 he is styled by the Earl and Countess "nostrum consanguineum germanum," but no such near connection as cousins-german can be traced; and it is stated, on the authority of a gentleman who has given much attention to the subject, that only in modern times does such a phrase mean more than "of the same blood." For particulars regarding the origin of the family of Dun reference is made to the "Notes" on the Sinclairs of Dun and Southdun.

The considerations in respect of which the above-mentioned charter was granted are set forth therein at

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some length, such as services rendered, improvements to be effected on the lands, etc. They are much the same as those contained in the charter granted in 1557 by the Bishop and Chapter to the Earl of Sutherland, and are generally in the style not unusual at the time. The services alluded to as having been rendered by Sinclair of Dun to the Earl cannot have reference, as supposed by the late Mr. Sinclair of Forss,[1] to his having rescued the Earl, when a minor, from the Earl of Caithness; for it was not Earl John, but his son, Earl Alexander, who, after his father's death, fell into the Earl of Caithness's hands.

I. DAVID SINCLAIR OF DUN, AND FIRST SINCLAIR OF FORSS, seems to have died in March 1560. In May 1561 his son, William, fiar of Forss, was admitted vassal in Forss by the Earl of Sutherland; and at the same date he gave a liferent right in Forss to one Mary Stirling, transactions not likely to have taken place had his father, who had Forss in liferent, been then still alive. This David Sinclair had certainly four sons :—

1. William, fiar of Forss.
2. Alexander, of whom there is no mention, except in the charter of 1560.
3. Henry, conceived to be the same Henry Sinclair who, as narrated by Gordon, was slain in 1586

[1] See his letter, dated November 1860, regarding the family of Dun, inserted in Calder's "History."

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The Sinclairs of Forss.

by the Clan Gunn, under the command of his nephew, Hutcheon M'Kay of Farr.

4. George, who is designed as "brother of William Sinclair of Forss," and who was a witness along with him to the contract of marriage, signed at Girnigo Castle on 22d November 1563, between Munro of Fowlis and Katharine Ross of Balnagown, afterwards notorious for her trial for witchcraft and poisoning.

If the supposition be correct that Henry Sinclair, who was killed in 1586, was the son of David Sinclair of Dun, then David Sinclair had also a daughter—

Christian Sinclair, who is described by Gordon as a cousin of the Earl of Caithness. She was married about 1557 or 1558 to Y M'Kay of Farr, by whom she had two sons, Hutcheon and William. Hutcheon M'Kay married, first, Elizabeth, daughter of George, fourth Earl of Caithness, and, secondly, Lady Jane Gordon, daughter of Alexander, Earl of Sutherland.

II. WILLIAM SINCLAIR "OF FORSS" is so styled in 1561-62-63 and subsequent years, and in 1567 he was a witness, along with *John* Sinclair of Dun, to a notarial instrument in favour of Alexander, Earl of Sutherland. He married Janet Urquhart, who may have been a daughter of the ancient family of Urquhart of Cromarty, knights, who held that estate until it was acquired by the Mackenzies. He had two sons :—

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1. David, who married Janet Murray, daughter of Murray of Pulrossie, or, as he is styled in a sasine in 1598, of Spanziedale, both in Sutherland. He died in apparency, and without issue.
2. Alexander, successor to his father.

III. ALEXANDER SINCLAIR OF FORSS married, in 1608, Margaret, daughter of George Sinclair of Mey. She is mentioned as "Gude Wyff of Forss." They had two sons and a daughter:—

1. David.
2. George.
1. Katharine, who married George Innes of Oust.

IV. DAVID SINCLAIR OF FORSS died without issue, and was succeeded by his brother, George.

V. GEORGE SINCLAIR OF FORSS married, first, Jean, daughter of David Sinclair of Dun, and, secondly, Mary, daughter of Sir James Sinclair of Murkle. By his first marriage he had a daughter—

Margaret, who married Malcolm Grote of Warse.

By his second marriage he had a son—

John, his successor.

VI. JOHN SINCLAIR OF FORSS was three times married; first, to Janet, daughter of William Sutherland of Geise, of the family of Sutherland of Forse; secondly,

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The Sinclairs of Forss.

to Barbara, daughter of John Sinclair of Rattar; and, thirdly, to Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Murray of Pennyland. By his first marriage he had a son—

George, his successor.

By his second marriage he had three sons and a daughter:—

1. John, afterwards of Forss.
2. James, of Holbornhead and Forss.
3. William, physician in Thurso, who married, in 1742, Barbara, daughter of Robert Sinclair of Geise, and died in 1767. He had four sons and four daughters, all of whom died young except, *first*, Dr. William, afterwards of Freswick; *second*, Janet, who married James Mackie, an officer of Excise, and had two sons, William and George, and several daughters. George attained the rank of Major-General in the Army, and had a large family of sons and daughters, and in 1826 resided in Caen, in Normandy. One of his sisters married John M'Kay, merchant in Thurso, and had issue. *Third*, Jane, the other surviving daughter of Dr. William Sinclair, married Allan Robertson of Tarrel, Captain in the 42d Regiment. He was afterwards in Wares, and had several sons and daughters.

1. Elizabeth.

By his third marriage John Sinclair had three daughters:—

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1. Mary, who married James Campbell of Lochend, Sheriff-clerk of Caithness. She died in 1771.
2. Jean, who married Hugo Campbell, joint-Sheriff-clerk with his brother, John.
3. Margaret, who died unmarried in 1771.

VII. GEORGE SINCLAIR OF FORSS seems to have led a reckless life, and in 1728 he is strongly recommended by his brother and successor, John, to renew his addresses to a young lady with money, "and never to give over till you have obtained your wishes," and thus to pay his debts, "which you'll never pay but by marrying a person with money." This advice the laird did not take, and he died unmarried.

VIII. JOHN SINCLAIR OF FORSS, half-brother of George, was minister of Watten in 1733, and died in 1753. He married Esther, daughter of Alexander Sinclair of Olrig, and had a son, Alexander.

IX. ALEXANDER SINCLAIR OF FORSS died unmarried, and was succeeded by his uncle, James Sinclair of Holbornhead. He seems to have been somewhat eccentric in his habits.

X. JAMES SINCLAIR OF FORSS AND HOLBORNHEAD married, in 1737, Jean, daughter of Robert Sinclair of Geise, Advocate, son of James Sinclair of Lybster, and

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The Sinclairs of Forss.

great-grandson of John of Assery, natural son of James Sinclair of Murkle. James Sinclair of Holbornhead married, apparently after 1775, a daughter of John Sinclair of Scotscalder, but had no issue by this his second wife.

The social habits of the county in the early part of last century (1737) are illustrated in an account of Holbornhead's marriage, given by a gentleman who was present: "We had a rantin bridal and a brave jolly company of ladies and gentlemen; your sisters and the ladies of the familie; Freswick, Brabster, Scotscalder, Assery, Thura, Lybster, Mass John Sinclair [Rev. John Sinclair, minister of Watten], the Frenchman [it does not appear who he was], Mr. Harry Innes, John of Bower, Toftkemp, etc. We danced four days out, and drank heartily, and thereafter went home with the young wife, where we renewed our mirth to a height."

James Sinclair had three sons and two daughters:—

1. Robert, a Captain in the Army; afterwards of Freswick.
2. William, an Army Surgeon, who died at St. Domingo, in 1794, unmarried.
3. James, afterwards of Forss.

1. Catharine, Mrs. Campbell.
2. Elizabeth, who married Mr. John Bain, who was Tacksman of Dale in 1782.

XI. James Sinclair of Forss, third son of James Sinclair of Holbornhead, succeeded his father. He served

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as Lieutenant in the Army; married Johanna, daughter of George M'Kay of Bighouse, and had four sons:— The Sinclairs of Forss.

1. James.
2. George Lewis, W.S., of Dalveoch, died 1878, without issue, aged 75.
3. William, Captain in the Army, died unmarried.
4. Hugh, died unmarried in Australia.

And five daughters:—

1. Jean, died unmarried.
2. Æneasina, married Mr. Stevenson, and had issue.
3. Louisa, married Captain Hector Macneill, and has issue.
4. Elizabeth.
5. Janet.

He was succeeded by his eldest son, James.

XII. JAMES SINCLAIR OF FORSS, TWELFTH LAIRD, married his cousin, Jessie, daughter of William Sinclair Wemyss of Southdun, and had issue, thirteen sons and four daughters, of whom eight sons and three daughters survived him. He died at Forss, 1st March 1876, aged 73.

His children were—

1. James, Lieutenant-Colonel, R.A., died unmarried in 1873.
2. Henry, died in India, unmarried.
3. George William, died in Australia in 1876, and left two sons and several daughters.
4. Robert.

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The Sinclairs of Forss.

5. Charles.
6. Ramsay, left no issue.
7. Edward.
8. Garden Octavius, died 1883, and left a son.
9. William, died 1878, left no issue.
10. Albert, died young.
11. John, died 1876, unmarried.
12. Frederick, died 1879, unmarried.
13. Wellesley, died young.

1. Joanna.
2. Janet, died young.
3. Henrietta.
4. Louisa, died 1883.

The following account of the Sinclairs of Forss is taken from a MS. of the late William Sinclair of Freswick, written apparently about 1770.

Many pretend just now to call the legitimacy of this family (of Forss) in question: Who do it now but such whose family's ly under an imputation of spuriousness not easily to be wipt out, with the most of which I'd hold no argument, as being bastards of yesterday. Such circumstances as they think seem to favor their assertion are easily acounted, from the method of their first outset, a manner that they despise, but which in the opinion of those who will judge with candour and propriety, adds a lustre to them not here to be paraleled, as it is evident that even in that unpolished time, when nothing but the

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tyes of blood were regarded by others, our progenitor bravely stood forth in support of his friend's family, neither valuing the connexion he had with Lord C. (Caithness), or the effects of the fury of his followers. At a time when from Lord S.'s (Sutherland's) minority he had little hopes of assistance, and reward far distant, he could have no other motive than that of a generous friendship for Lord S. and an indignation at G. E. of C. (George, Earl of Caithness) devilish intentions against Lord S.'s family. But to proceed to our intended narrative, 'tis not to be wondered at if we consider family accidents, that they had no patrimony. William (the second Earl of Caithness) died fighting for his country; his son John might have done something for David, but as they both fell together in Orkney, where his interest or love for his brother led him (we are not to enter on the merits of the expedition); the tye of cousin-german was not strong enough, thought young William and George; he accordingly offered his service to Lord S., who accepted of them.

1. DAVID SINCLAIR, second son of William, Earl of Caithness, married a daughter of Sir Urquhart of Cromarty. He fell with his brother, Earl John, in an insurrection in Orkney, and left a son—

2. WILLIAM, who inheriting the active spirit of his father, on Earl C. denying him his friendship, appealed

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The Sinclairs of Forss.

to Earl Sutherland, who gave him a tack on his estate in Caithness, and made him his overseer or chamberlain. After Lord S.'s death, Lord C. intended attacking his lady at Dunrobin. William got account of this, and posted thither with intelligence. The lady only asked him not to follow his chief; he promised he would not, and afterwards raised and headed the men on her estates in Caithness, gave battle to Lord C., and routed him. After the expiration of her son's minority, he had a charter, dated Scrabster Castle 1560, signed by Lord S., Countess of Errol, his lady, and Robert, Bishop of Caithness, for sundrie lands therein particularly mentioned; and he is therein designed after the preamble of the charter, "viro honorabili Gulielmo St. Clair propter fidelitatem," etc. 'Tis to be imagined that such people as Lord S. and R. S. (Robert Stuart), the king's brother, would know what he had a right to. He married a daughter of Murray of Pulrossie, a then flourishing family in Sutherlandshire, and by her left issue—

3. DAVID, who had lands in Thurso East, and died there without succession. Forss was possest after by his brother—

4. ALEXANDER, who married Margaret, daughter of Sir Sinclair of Mey. He was one of the lairds from Caithness brought up a surety for Lord Caithness after his burning Sandside's corn-yard; he insisted for a backbond from the Earl, which he would not give, and which

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led the others into a belief of there being no necessity for it; he told them when he was turned out as insane, "I'm the fuil the day; mony o' ye w'd wish y'ed been so or this day yomon;" this happened literally, for the others paid the forfeiture of their obligations which Lord C. did not relieve them of. Among many who suffered was Bruce of Stanstill. He, A. S., had two sons, David, who died in A.S.'s lifetime, and— The Sinclairs of Forss.

5. GEORGE, who carried on the line of his family. He married a daughter of Sinclair of Dun, by whom he had a daughter, married to Grote of Warse, of whom Malcolm Grote, Esq., is descended. In his time the Mercat of Dun was transferred from Cross-Kirk to Dun; he next married a daughter of James Sinclair of Murkle, by whom he had issue, one son, John; he was a very weak man, and she very vain and designing; she gave off all the thirlages, and 'tis said got a head-dress for allowance to build a miln at Brims: she married Sutherland of Giese, and did everything against her son; and to hide her and her husband's iniquity forced the son to marry a daughter of Giese's, by whom he had a son, George, who succeeded; and George was succeeded by John, eldest son of John by a second marriage with Barbara, daughter of Sinclair of Rattar. By John's third marriage to Elizabeth Murray, daughter of Pennyland, there remains no issue-male. This John married a daughter of Sinclair of Olrig, and left one son, Alexander, now of Forss.

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The Sinclairs of Forss.

JOHN SINCLAIR OF FORSS above mentioned as married to Barbara, daughter of Sinclair of Rattar, left two other sons, James and William.

James of Holbornhead married Jean, second daughter of Robert Sinclair of Giese, Advocate, and has issue :—

Lieutenant Robert Sinclair, 63d Regiment of Foot.

William Sinclair, Surgeon 34th Regiment of Foot.

James Sinclair.

William Sinclair, M.D., married Barbara, third daughter of the above Robert Sinclair of Giese, Advocate. He died 27th July 1767, leaving issue one son—

William St. Clair, Senior of King's College, Edinburgh, and late of King's and Marischal's College of Aberdeen.

Note.—On this Pedigree it is to be observed :—

Firstly. That, while there is a general concurrence in the fact that the ancestor of the family was a David Sinclair, there is no evidence that William, second Earl of Caithness, had a son of this name.

Secondly. The charter of Forss in 1560 was granted by John, Earl of Sutherland, and his wife, Eleanor, to David Sinclair of Dun, his son, William, and other sons in succession. This David Sinclair died in 1560, and Earl John lived till 1567, when he left his eldest son a minor, no doubt; but the charter of 1560 could not have been for services rendered to him. Earl John himself was also a minor in 1529 when his father died, and

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possibly the charter of 1560 might have been granted to David Sinclair for services rendered to him. But, on the other hand, according to the pedigree, David Sinclair, the alleged son of Earl William, was killed in Orkney in 1529. In 1561 Earl John granted to William Sinclair a precept admitting him a vassal in Forss. The Sinclairs of Forss.

Thirdly. William Sinclair's wife was certainly Janet Urquhart, and not Janet Murray, as appears from a sasine in their favour. David Sinclair, son of William, married Janet Murray of Pulrossie.

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THE SINCLAIRS OF ACHINGALE AND NEWTON.

The Sinclairs of Achingale and Newton.

I. WILLIAM SINCLAIR, FIRST SINCLAIR OF ACHINGALE AND NEWTON, was the son of Alexander Sinclair of Sixpenny or Sixpennyland. Of what family Alexander Sinclair was is somewhat uncertain. He has been supposed to have been of the Sinclairs of Dun, but it is more probable that he was of the Sinclairs of Assery and Lybster, and that he was a son of William Sinclair of Hoy, whose eldest son was named Alexander, and of whom there is, otherwise, no particular account. Alexander Sinclair married, in 1697, Beatrice, only daughter of George Sinclair, second son of James Sinclair, first of Lybster, and she and her husband, on the supposition that the latter was the son of William of Hoy, stood in the relation of cousins. By this marriage Alexander Sinclair had several sons and daughters, among whom were :—

William, mentioned in 1733, as second son.

Francis.

Sidney.

Margaret, eldest daughter, who married in 1722 Alexander Calder of Achingale.

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II. WILLIAM SINCLAIR OF ACHINGALE, married in 1738 Elizabeth, daughter of Sir James Sinclair of Dunbeath. Sir James had acquired the right of reversion of the wadsets of Achingale, held by the Calders; and about 1738 or 1740, he had redeemed the lands, which he thereafter sold to William Sinclair, by whom a Crown charter was expede in 1752. William Sinclair had a son and two daughters:—

1. Alexander.
1. Janet.
2. Margaret.

III. ALEXANDER SINCLAIR OF ACHINGALE, who was a merchant in Jamaica, succeeded his father, and was infeft in 1768. He died without issue.

IV. JANET SINCLAIR OF ACHINGALE succeeded her brother, and died unmarried in 1783, and was succeeded by her sister, Margaret.

V. MARGARET SINCLAIR OF ACHINGALE married, in 1798, Alexander Sinclair, a son of Alexander Sinclair, tenant in Houstry, Halkirk, who had been for some time in Jamaica. In 1804 they sold the lands to William Sinclair of Freswick for £7000. There was no issue of the marriage, and, so far as known, the family of Sinclair of Achingale is extinct.

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THE SINCLAIRS OF LYBSTER, REAY.

The Sinclairs of Lybster, Reay.

BEFORE the rise of the Sinclairs of Lybster, in Latheron, there were Sinclairs of Lybster, in Reay, dating from at least 1636. Their origin is uncertain, but it is conjectured that they may have been the descendants of Henry Sinclair, who died about 1614, a natural son of John, Master of Caithness, and who got from his brother, the Earl of Caithness, a wadset of Downreay and part of Lybster. Or possibly this family may have been of the Sinclairs of Dunbeath, who held Downreay and other lands in Reay.

In 1636 there is mention of DAVID SINCLAIR OF LYBSTER and, in 1638, of WILLIAM SINCLAIR OF LYBSTER, who then appears as witness to a deed by Oliver Sinclair of Spittal, son of Richard of Brims, and grandson of William Sinclair of Dunbeath. David and William were probably brothers, each inheriting a portion of Lybster. William had a daughter, Margaret, who, as heir to her father, executed a renunciation, in 1648, in favour of her cousin, James Sinclair of Lybster.

David Sinclair of Lybster had two lawful sons :—

1. James, fiar of Lybster in 1637, who died between

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1648 and 1661. He married Margaret Macleod, and had a son and a daughter: David, who is mentioned down to 1670; and Barbara, who married Donald Campbell, Elder in Thurso. The Sinclairs of Lybster, Reay.

2. Robert, who with consent of his brother, James, married, in 1640, Barbara, daughter of George Sinclair in Downreay, the brother of Richard Sinclair of Brims, and the son of William Sinclair of Dunbeath.

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THE SINCLAIRS OF HOY AND OLDFIELD.

The Sinclairs of Hoy and Oldfield.

JOHN, Master of Berriedale, granted, in 1630, a wadset of Hoy to one WILLIAM SINCLAIR, who held also the lands of Cairdscroft, Oldfield, and Hallowtoft, near Thurso. This William Sinclair is a different person from William Sinclair of Hoy and Scotscalder, and is probably "William Sinclair in Thurso East," who is mentioned in the proceedings against the Earl of Caithness and others for the forcible abduction, in 1668, of William M'Kay of Scourie.[1] By his wife, Katharine Anguson, William Sinclair had two sons:—

1. James, fiar of Hoy in 1676, and *in* Hoy in 1700. He married Elizabeth Sinclair, who, in 1730, is described as relict of James Sinclair of Oldfield.
2. William, Commissary of Caithness, who married Elizabeth, eldest daughter of James Innes of Sandside. He had two sons:—
    1. William, who got from his grandfather, in 1690, a disposition to Oldfield, Cairdscroft, and Hallowtoft, which he disponed to his brother in 1729.

[1] M'Kay, p. 366.

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2. Robert, Rector of Bulfen, in Essex, who, in 1731, disponed Oldfield, Cairdscroft, and Hallowtoft to William Innes of Sandside. The Sinclairs of Hoy and Oldfield.

James Sinclair of Hoy and his wife disponed the wadset of these lands to Sir George Sinclair of Clyth, through whom it came into the hands of his nephew, William Sinclair of Hoy and Scotscalder.

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THE MANSON-SINCLAIRS OF BRIDGEND.

The Manson-Sinclairs of Bridgend.

I. THE ancestor of the Mansons of Bridgend was Alexander Manson, merchant in Wick, who, in 1681 and 1685, sat for that burgh in the Scottish Parliament; and in 1693 was Commissioner for the county. In 1690 he purchased the estate of Watten from Lord Breadalbane for about £1952 sterling. He acquired Flex from the Baynes; and in 1698 he purchased from Coghill of that Ilk the lands of Coghill, which he had previously held in wadset. He married Isabel Hay, and appears to have had several children. He was succeeded by his son, George.

II. GEORGE MANSON OF BRIDGEND married, first, Katharine, daughter (it is supposed) of John Sinclair of Rattar, and, secondly, a daughter of Sir Robert Dunbar of Northfield. He died in 1749, and had three daughters:—

1. Isabel, who died unmarried.
2. Margaret, who was served heir to Isabel in 1742.
3. Sidney.

Reference is made to the "Notes" on the Dunbars of Northfield, as to George Manson's marriage to Miss

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Dunbar. If any such marriage took place, George Manson was twice married, as there is no doubt that he married Katharine, fourth daughter of John Sinclair of Rattar, and "sister of Freswick," that is, of William Sinclair.[1] The Manson-Sinclairs of Bridgend.

In October 1702 George Manson settled his estate on his daughters, Isabel and Margaret, who seem to have been then his only children born, and it is thought that their mother was Katharine Sinclair, and their father's first wife, as his marriage to Sir Robert Dunbar's daughter does not appear to have taken place earlier than 1728, and was probably considerably later.[2]

III. SIDNEY MANSON OF BRIDGEND married William, son of George Sinclair of Barrock, and had a son and a daughter:—

1. Robert Manson Sinclair.
1. ——, who married Mr. Bogie, and whose only daughter, Catharine, married John Rose, Sheriff-Substitute of Caithness, on the death of her cousin-german, Elizabeth, Mr. Rose's first wife.

IV. ROBERT MANSON OF BRIDGEND married Isabel, daughter of John Sinclair of Assery. She died in 1779, and he died about 1790. He was of very convivial

[1] *Vide* William Sutherland of Forse's evidence in Dunbeath Reduction case, and statement by Alexander Sinclair of Barrock.

[2] *Vide* Answers for Miss Sinclair of Southdun to Petition of Robert Manson-Sinclair, 1781.

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The Manson-Sinclairs of Bridgend.

habits, and "Brigend's Bowl," famed in his own time as ever in need of sugar, whisky, or water, thereby calling for constant additions, is still locally "a Bowl of renown." In 1788 the estate was judicially sold, and was purchased by Sir Robert Anstruther for £12,450. Robert Manson Sinclair had three sons alive in 1772, and five daughters:—

1. William.
2. George, a Lieutenant in the army, who was served heir in 1782, *cum beneficio*.
3. Robert, who was a writer in Edinburgh.

Of the daughters there is no information except as regards two:—

1. Catharine, who died unmarried.
2. Elizabeth,[1] the second daughter, who was the first wife of John Rose, Sheriff-Substitute of Caithness, and Collector of Customs at Thurso, and had issue.

[1] Contract of Marriage, October 1772.

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THE SUTHERLANDS OF FORSE.

The Sutherlands of Forse.

I. THE descent of this family from that of WILLIAM, EARL OF SUTHERLAND, who died in 1370, is unquestioned, although there are conflicting statements among genealogists as to the immediate descendants of that Earl. On 10th November 1345 he obtained a charter from King David II., "Willelmo comiti de Sutherland et Margaretæ sponsæ suæ sorori nostræ carissimæ.". According to Douglas, who follows Sir Robert Gordon, he was the great-grandfather of Robert, Earl of Sutherland, and of his brother, Kenneth, ancestor of the Sutherlands of Forse. In the Sutherland Peerage case, 1771, Captain George Sutherland of Forse, a claimant to the dignity, averred his ancestor, Kenneth, to have been the *son* of this Earl William, founding on a charter, in 1408, of the three davoch lands of Nottingham, granted by Mariot, daughter and co-heiress of Ranald, Lord Cheyne, with consent of Andrew of Keith, her son, "Kenatho de Sutherlandia *filio* quondam Willelmi comitis Sutherlandiæ." It is certain that Kenneth Sutherland was brother of Earl Robert, and that he received from him, in 1400, Drummuy, Backies, and Torish, in Sutherland.

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The Sutherlands of Forse.

Nottinghame, Nothingham, or Noddingham, as it is variously written, is mentioned as early as 1272, when there was a Canon of Caithness styled "Henry of Nothingham."

Kenneth Sutherland married the daughter and heiress of Keith of Forse, and the family style then became "Sutherland of Forse." He was succeeded by his son, John.

II. JOHN SUTHERLAND OF FORSE.

III. RICHARD SUTHERLAND OF FORSE was served heir to his father, John, in 1441, and was infeft in the lands in Sutherland, granted to his grandfather, as appears by an inquest held in 1471, at the Head Court of John, Earl of Sutherland.

On 24th October 1451, Richard Sutherland granted a bond to the Chaplain of St. Andrew's Chapel in Golspie, in the following terms:—

"Be it made kend to all men be yer present Letters Me Richard of Sutherland of Forse to haff giffen and grantyt and be yer present Letters giffis and grantis fourtie shilling of silver of usuall monie of Scotland zherly of annual rent of the mealis of the Toune of Drommy in Sutherland fra me and myn ayris for evermore to ye perpetuall Chaplane of Saint Andrewis Chapell of Golspy als frely quietly peaceably and honorably as ony annualrent is giffyn to ony Kirk or Chappell within the Kynryk of Scotland for and to pray for me and the soulis of my forbearis

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and successouris forontyn ony agane callyng or revocatioune of me or myn ayris and that attour giff it hapnys me or myn ayris to cum to the contrar of ye foresaid gyfft as God forbyde we do I charge ye bishop of Cathness as he wyl answer to Almighty God to curse and to enterdyt me and myn ayris till we cum to full satisfaction and amendyng to Saint Andrew and to the Chaplane perpetuale of Golspy. In Wytness of ye quhilk thyngis becaus I had no Sele proper of myn awyn I haff procuryt with instaens the Sele of an honorable man Wyllam of Sutherland of Berrydale sone and apparand ayr to Alexander of Sutherland of Duffhous to be set and appendyt to thir letters at Dunrobyn the twenty four day of October the zheir of our Lorde a thousande four hundreth fyfftie and one zheiris befor yir witness John Erll of Sutherland Marg^{t} Balze his Spous Sir Donald Cormackson, Robert Henryson of Innerboll Thomas Robertson of ——— John Park Gillane, Henry of Hillam, John Androwson mare of fier of the Erll of Sutherland and dievress others."

In the "Origines Parochiales" this bond is erroneously stated to have been granted by *Robert* Sutherland of Forse.

IV. JOHN SUTHERLAND OF FORSE succeeded his father, Richard. In 1505 King James IV.[1] granted him a charter of the farm and teinds of Backies.

He had a son, Robert, who died before him, leaving three sons, Richard, William, and Alexander.

V. RICHARD SUTHERLAND OF FORSE made up a title

[1] 18th May 1471, Inquisition.

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The Sutherlands of Forse.

to his grandfather, John,[1] and, dying without issue, was succeeded by his brother, William.

VI. WILLIAM SUTHERLAND OF FORSE married, in 1558, Janet, daughter of William Sinclair of Olrig, and died without issue in May 1564. In September 1563 Queen Mary granted to him and his wife, Janet Sinclair, a charter of lands in the Glen of Dunrobin.

Of William Sinclair of Olrig no other notice is found. The Sinclairs of Olrig, who flourished in the seventeenth century, were of the Mey family, the first of the name having been George, fifth son of Sir James of Canisbay. In 1540,[2] and down to 1564, we find William Sinclair, Chaplain, Rector of Olrig, and latterly Vicar of Latheron, a son of Henry Lord Sinclare. There was also, in 1542,[3] a William Sinclair, son of William, second Earl of Caithness, but concerning him there are no particulars.

VII. ALEXANDER SUTHERLAND OF FORSE[4] made up a title to his brother, William, and was succeeded by his son, Donald.

VIII. DONALD SUTHERLAND OF FORSE had a son and a daughter:—

1. Alexander, his successor.

1. Margaret, "Lady Dun," wife of David Sinclair of

[1] P. of C., 10th November 1546.
[2] Legitimation, 1540.
[3] Legitimation, 1542.
[4] P. of C., 24th January 1574.

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Dun. After his death she married Charles Caldell of Lynegar. By her first marriage she had a daughter, Jean Sinclair, who married George Sinclair of Forss.

IX. ALEXANDER SUTHERLAND OF FORSE was, in March 1602,[1] served heir-male and of entail to his grand-uncle, William, in the lands of Drummuy, Backies, and Torish, and he seems to have died before 1645.[2] He had—

1. James, fiar of Forse, his successor.
2. John, in Rangag, ancestor of the Sutherlands of Langwell.
3. Adam, who is mentioned in a charter to James by his father as "meo filio legitimo."

1. Janet, who married, in 1621, Francis, second son of James Sinclair, first of Murkle, by whom she had a son, James, who died without issue.
2. Elizabeth, who married, in 1643, William Sinclair of Dun, and had no issue.

X. JAMES SUTHERLAND OF FORSE got a charter from his father in 1633, and in the same year he married Janet,[3] eldest daughter of Hugh Gordon of Ballone, in the parish of Dornoch. Janet Gordon[4] was the great-grand-daughter of Adam Gordon, Dean of Caithness, son

[1] Retour, 1602.
[2] P. of C., by Earl Marischal, of Forse, 8th November 1594.
[3] Contract of Marriage. Died 1612, æt. 82.
[4] Died 1529.

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The Sutherlands of Forse.

of Alexander, first Earl of Huntly. Her grandfather was John Gordon of Drummuy,[1] which had formerly belonged to the Forse family. James Sutherland died before 1655, and in that year his widow, "Lady Nottingham," married William Rorison or Henderson, wadsetter of Wester Nottingham, by whom she had issue.—*Vide* Henderson of Gersay.

James Sutherland had several sons and five daughters—

1. George, his successor.
2. Adam, "brother-german of George."
3. Robert.
4. Hugh.

In a sasine, dated 27th September 1661, mention is made of Hugh and Robert, as "brothers" of George of Forse.

5. Major Alexander, who, according to a MS. pedigree in the possession of General Pope, is mentioned as of Earnside in 1641, as having sold it in 1643, and as having married Jean Campbell. In this pedigree Robert is stated as third son, and Hugh is not named.

1. Jean.[2]
2. Margaret.
3. Elspeth or Elizabeth, who married, in 1663, John Sutherland of Ausdale,[3] with consent of her

[1] Gordon's History.
[2] Bond of Provision, 23d January 1652.
[3] Contract of Marriage, 28th November 1663.

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brothers, George and Robert. In 1669 she married James Sutherland of Langwell.

4. Katharine.
5. Esther.

XI. GEORGE SUTHERLAND OF FORSE made up a title to his grandfather, Alexander, as his father had been infeft on a disposition in his favour, to be holden of his father, Alexander Sutherland.[1] He married Jean, eldest daughter of Robert Gray of Skibo, the cousin of his grandmother, Janet Gordon. The Grays of Skibo are said to be descended from Andrew, Lord Gray, who died in 1514, and whose great-grandson, George Gray of Skibo and Sordell (who died in 1629), married Janet, daughter of John More Gordon of Embo, and niece of Hugh Gordon of Ballone. Of this marriage there was a son, Robert Gray of Skibo, who was father of Jean Gray. Her provision, in security of which she was infeft in Forse, in 1660 and 1661, was 200 merks and 8 chalders of victual.

George Sutherland of Forse had four sons :—

1. George, his successor.
2. Robert, his immediate younger brother, who is mentioned as in Wester Nottingham and Achastle. He is afterwards styled of Achinarras, on his marriage, in 1696, to Esther Sutherland, daughter and co-heiress of Langwell,

[1] Pr. of Cl. by Earl of Caithness, 20th February 1660.

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The Sutherlands of Forse.

who, as widow of William Budge of Toftingall, liferented these lands.

3. William, also styled of Wester Nottingham, and of Giese, which he purchased in 1691 from Lord Breadalbane. He appears to have been twice married—first, to Katharine Sinclair; and, secondly, about 1684, to Mary, daughter of Sir James Sinclair of Murkle, and widow of George Sinclair of Forss. After his second marriage, his wife being liferented in Forss, he was styled "of Forss."

By his first marriage he had two sons and a daughter, viz. William, fiar of Giese, Adam, and Jane or Janet, who, in 1695, married John Sinclair of Forss.

4. Captain Alexander Sutherland, who was styled of Burrigill, and who appears from 1687 to 1693.

In 1728-30 there resided at Breckachy, on Dunbeath estate, a Hugh Sutherland, who appears to have been factor for Sinclair of Dunbeath, and who is mentioned in 1721 as "brother-german to the laird of Forse." It is improbable that he can have been the same Hugh who is mentioned in 1661, as brother of George of Forse, and it is concluded that he was a son of this George Sutherland, eleventh of Forse, and the brother of the succeeding George, the laird of Forse in 1721, who succeeded to the lands in 1706. Hugh Sutherland, in Breckachy, had a son, John. There is no further account of this branch of the family.

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XII. GEORGE SUTHERLAND OF FORSE succeeded his father, and had— The Sutherlands of Forse.

1. Francis, fiar of Forse, in 1720, who died without issue.[1]
2. John, afterwards of Forse.
3. Katharine, who married William Sinclair of Freswick,[2] with consent of her mother, Elizabeth Sinclair. In a pedigree of the family by Mr. Hughes, George Sutherland's wife is named Jean, of the family of Dun, but in the original contract of marriage of her daughter Katharine, it is certain that her name was Elizabeth.[3]

XIII. JOHN SUTHERLAND OF FORSE married Æmilia, daughter of John Sinclair of Ulbster.[4] She survived him, and died in 1789. John Sutherland is described by a contemporary as having been a gentleman of very universal knowledge, who employed himself much in reading and epistolary correspondence, drank a moderate glass of wine with his friends, and seldom exceeded the bounds of discretion in drinking. He was of a sedate rather than a jocular turn of mind. He had two sons and four daughters :—

1. George, his successor.
2. John Campbell, afterwards of Forse.
1. Harriet, who married Colonel Sutherland of the

[1] P. of C., 27th July 1706.
[2] Contract of Marriage, 26th October 1724.
[3] Barrock Charter-chest.
[4] Crown charter, 1740.

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Scotch Brigade, Dutch Service, and died without issue.

2. Elizabeth, who married George Sinclair, W.S., second son of James Sinclair of Durran, and had a son, Lieutenant-Colonel John Sutherland Sinclair, Royal Artillery, who had issue.
3. Mary, who married Captain William Maclean of the 40th Regiment, and had three sons and four daughters. One of the daughters, Jane, married Captain John Henderson of Aimster and Castlegreen, and had issue one son, Major-General William Henderson of the Royal Artillery, who is unmarried, and four daughters, who all died unmarried.
4. Katharine, who married Professor Williamson of Glasgow University, and had issue.

XIV. Captain George Sutherland of Forse was served heir to his father in 1765, and died unmarried in 1773.[1] In 1760 he was Lieutenant in the 87th Regiment, and in the same year he was appointed Captain in the Earl of Sutherland's Highlanders, in which he served until 1763.

Captain Sutherland was a claimant for the dignity of Earl of Sutherland, as the nearest collateral heir-male of the ancient Earls of Sutherland, preferably to Sir Robert Gordon, and to Elizabeth (afterwards Duchess Countess

[1] Retour, 5th August.

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of Sutherland), all the collateral branches, who, in 1514, or subsequently, were nearer to him and his family, being extinct. The Sutherlands of Forse.

XV. JOHN CAMPBELL SUTHERLAND OF FORSE was retoured heir to his brother in 1776. He married Margaret Munro, and died in 1828, leaving three sons—

1. John.
2. George.
3. Captain Francis, who is married, and has issue.

XVI. JOHN SUTHERLAND OF FORSE died unmarried, on 28th February 1846, in the twenty-sixth year of his age.[1] He served for some time as Cornet in the 9th Lancers, and afterwards in the 56th Foot as Lieutenant.

XVII. GEORGE SUTHERLAND, NOW OF FORSE, married Miss Sheppard, and has issue.[2]

In the London *Times*, in 1871, there appeared a notice of the death, on 13th May, at Bernard Street, Russell Square, of Charlotte Mary, wife of James Robert Judge, daughter of the late Captain Norman Campbell of the 71st Regiment, and "*great-grand-daughter of George Sutherland of Forse.*" On 17th June Mr. Judge, on being written to by General Henderson, replied, "My wife always told me that her father's mother was a daughter of the George Sutherland of Forse who con-

[1] Retour, 16th May 1832. [2] Retour, 26th January 1848.

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The Sutherlands of Forse.

tested the Sutherland peerage, and who was declared by Lord Mansfield, delivering the judgment of the House of Lords, to have proved his pedigree as heir-male; but the peerage being a female fief, went to his niece, the daughter of the then late Earl. Of the truth of this my wife had no doubt, or she would have said so. I received your note last Monday, and should have answered it at once had I not hoped, by waiting a few days, to be in possession of my wife's pedigree, for which I had written to Mrs. Sharpe, my wife's cousin, who is the daughter of Captain Donald Campbell, and of one of the Digby family. Upon receipt of the pedigree, should I obtain further information, I shall do myself the pleasure of communicating it to you." No further communication was received from Mr. Judge. Captain Sutherland had certainly no legitimate issue, nor, in so far as known, had he *any* family.

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THE SUTHERLANDS OF LANGWELL.

The Sutherlands of Langwell.

THE modern estate of Langwell was formerly known as "Berriedale," and was possessed by two families of Sutherlands. Those of the first family, descended from John Begg, son of Nicolas, Earl of Sutherland, were styled "Sutherlands of Berriedale," and the other family, whose immediate progenitors were the Sutherlands of Forse, descended from Kenneth, a younger brother of John Begg, were known as the "Sutherlands of Langwell." Berriedale originally belonged to the Cheynes, and it, together with Duffus (Dove House), in Morayshire, was acquired by the Sutherlands through the marriage of one of the daughters and co-heiresses of Ranald, "Lord Cheyne," to Nicolas Sutherland, brother to William, Earl of Sutherland. From the Sutherlands the lands came, also by marriage, into the family of Oliphant; and they were thereafter acquired by the Caithness family of Sutherlands. In the seventeenth century the estate then known as Langwell was acquired from Lord Breadalbane by William M'Ian or Sutherland, grandson of Alexander Sutherland of Forse.

Mr. Calder has a story of a "William Sutherland of

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The Sutherlands of Langwell.

Berriedale, a young man of gigantic stature," who accompanied John, Earl of Caithness, in his disastrous expedition to Orkney, in 1529, and who, he says, was proprietor of Berriedale, and ancestor of the Brabster family. In 1451 there was a William Sutherland of Berriedale, the son and apparent heir of Alexander Sutherland of Duffus, and whose second son, William, was laird of Quarrelwood. Quarrelwood had also a son, William, who was fifth Baron of Duffus, and his son and heir, William, was killed at Thurso in 1529, that being the same year in which, according to Calder, William Sutherland of Berriedale was slain in Orkney. But even if there really had been a William Sutherland of Berriedale in the Orkney expedition, he was not an ancestor of the Sinclair-Sutherlands of Brabster, for, beyond question, their Sutherland connection is derived from the Forse branch of the Sutherlands of Langwell.

ALEXANDER SUTHERLAND, ninth laird of Forse, who succeeded his father in 1602, had a son, John, in Rangag, a township on the estate of Forse. John Sutherland had at least two sons, William and David, of whom the elder seems to have been William, commonly called "M'Ian" (son of John), and in 1660 he and his father were joint tacksmen of Langwell. In 1664 William Sutherland obtained a wadset on Langwell from the Earl of Caithness; in 1691 he got further wadset rights, including therein the lands of Risgill, in favour of himself

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and his son, James, from Lord Breadalbane; and in the same year they acquired an absolute heritable right to these lands. Thus William M'Ian or Sutherland was the first Sutherland of Langwell. The Sutherlands of Langwell.

David, the second son of John Sutherland in Rangag, is designed "of Langwell," and he may have been a wadsetter of these lands. He seems to have had several children, but we find notice only of his "eldest son," John, who was his executor, and who in 1678 granted an assignation in favour of James Sutherland of Ausdale, his cousin-german, of a bond for 600 merks which had been granted by his grand-uncle, James of Forse, to his "good sir," John in Rangag, and by him assigned to his son, David, the father of John Sutherland.

I. William Sutherland or M'Ian had several children:—

1. James, his eldest son and successor.
2. Adam, in Langwell, who married Janet, daughter of Donald Henderson, sometime in Sibster, thereafter in Achalibster, and his wife, Elizabeth Sinclair, the grand-daughter of James Sinclair of Borlum and Thura. His eldest son, James, married, in 1703, Beatrice, daughter of James Sinclair of Lybster. His second son was John; and he had a daughter, Esther, who married, in 1716, Benjamin Henderson in Achalibster.
3. David, in Ausdale, the third son of William Suther-

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The Sutherlands of Langwell.

land, married twice. By Catharine Polson, his first wife, he had two sons, William, wadsetter of Westerloch, and first of that family, and Angus. These two sons are described as his eldest and second sons by Catharine Polson, in a bond of provision by their father, dated in 1697, by which he assigns to them 2000 merks, part of 4000 merks due to him by his elder brother, James of Langwell. David Sutherland's second wife was Mary Sutherland, of a family of Sutherlands, tacksmen of Latheron. By her he had a daughter, Elizabeth, who married, in 1720, Donald Calder of Strath. One of the witnesses to her contract of marriage was her relative, "Francis Sutherland, fiar of Forse."

4. George Sutherland, in Ausdale and in Braehiglish, is mentioned as the brother of David in Ausdale.

5. Anne, the only daughter of William Sutherland, in so far as is known, married, first, John Innes of Oust, and, secondly, Alexander Calder of Achingale. She had a son, John Innes, to whom his uncle, James Sutherland of Langwell, was tutor-dative, and a daughter, Marion Innes, who was married in 1703, with consent of her mother and her mother's then second husband, to John Calder, son of Alexander Calder in Winlass. For her tocher she had 2800 merks liferented by her

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mother, and which was in the hands of James Sutherland of Langwell. The Sutherlands of Langwell.

II. JAMES SUTHERLAND OF LANGWELLS, *alias* "Meikle James," had no less than four wives.

In 1669 he married his cousin, Elspeth, daughter of James Sutherland of Forse, and widow of John Sutherland of Ausdale, and she having had the liferent of this place, James Sutherland was after his marriage designed "of Ausdale." By this marriage he does not seem to have had any issue.

His second wife was Anne, daughter of Patrick Sinclair of Ulbster, and widow of Francis Sinclair of Stirkoke. By her he had a daughter:—

Esther, afterwards of Langwell.

His third wife was Elizabeth, daughter of William Sinclair of Dunbeath, by whom he had no family.

He married, lastly, Anne, daughter of Robert Sinclair of Durran, and had by her two daughters:—

1. Anne, afterwards of Risgill or Swiney.
2. Janet, who married George Sinclair of Brabster. This marriage was the first connection between the Sinclairs of Brabster and the Sutherlands.

James Sutherland died in 1708, and was succeeded in Langwell by his daughter, Esther; and in Risgill by her sister Anne.

III. ESTHER SUTHERLAND OF LANGWELL was twice

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The Sutherlands of Langwell.

married.[1] Her first husband was William, son of Donald Budge of Toftingall, by whom she had a son, James. She married thereafter, in 1708, Robert Sutherland of Achastle, immediate younger brother of George, twelfth laird of Forse; and he was after his marriage styled "of Achinarras," in which lands his wife was liferented as the widow of William Budge. She had two sons and two daughters:—

1. James, her successor.
2. Major George Sutherland, Midgarty, Sutherlandshire, who had two sons and eight daughters; Lieutenant-Colonel George, 15th Regiment of Foot; Robert; Esther, who married Captain William Sutherland, Shibbercross; Janet, who married John Gray of Jamaica; Jane, who married the Reverend Alexander Sage, Kildonan; Elizabeth, who married Joseph Gordon, Navidale; Charlotte, who married Mr. M'Farquhar of Jamaica; Williamina, who married Robert Baigrie, Midgarty; Roberta, who married Robert Pope, Navidale; and by a second marriage, Janet, who married Kenneth M'Kay, Torball.

1. Margaret, married in 1732 to Alexander M'Kenzie, younger of Ardloch, whose father, John, second of Ardloch, was cousin-german of John, second Earl of Cromarty.
2. Elizabeth, who married Benjamin Williamson, second of Banniskirk.

[1] Contract of Marriage, 1696.

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IV. JAMES SUTHERLAND OF LANGWELL, "a jovial, hearty man, who liked a glass of good claret at home and abroad, and was exceedingly merry over it," married, in 1738, Rachel, daughter of Sir James and Dame Elizabeth Dunbar of Hempriggs, and had a son and a daughter:— The Sutherlands of Langwell.

1. Robert of Langwell.
1. Elizabeth, who married, in 1761, Walter Gray, son of Patrick Gray of Easter Lairg.

William Sinclair of Freswick, writing to Budge of Toftingall in 1741, mentions that Lord Duffus, Sir William Dunbar, Durran, and Scotscalder, had gone to Thurso East, and that Lady Janet, believing that they had done so, not so much out of kindness "as to get a sett of drink" and to see how political matters were going, made Langwell—who had also arrived at the castle—landlord at dinner (Ulbster being from home), "with orders to make an example of them." These he obeyed punctually, so that some of the party had to be "oxter-handed," or supported from the boat by which they crossed the Thurso river to Bowermadden's house in Thurso, where they lodged.

V. ROBERT SUTHERLAND, LAST OF LANGWELL, married, in 1762, his cousin, Anne Sinclair, heiress of Brabster. For the issue of this marriage *vide* Brabster.

In 1775 Langwell was sold to William Gray, Iter Boreale, Jamaica, Provost-Marshal of that Island.

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The Sutherlands of Langwell.

It is believed that Robert Sutherland had a brother who resided in Brechin, but his name and history are not known.

In the following description of this last laird of Langwell, written in 1769, will be recognised the hand of the late William Sinclair of Freswick :—

"Langwell was in town at our market, or, as he designs himself, Captain Robert Sutherland of Langwell and Brabster, Esq. His inconsistencies you have heard on several occasions long ere now: I shall therefore give you an account of his procession at Freswick's burial. First comes himsell, mounted on a gray nag so and so shaped, low-sized crape hat-band, and a streamer from each cock of the back part, red coat and vest, white breeches, mounted with black, lappels and cuffs to the coat of that color; on the right and left about a yard behind him, and as much to the right and left of the line in which he rode, two gilly-weet-feet, each with a leashed grayhound; then followed three old-looking footmen in abrest of the line in which the first three stood. Captain John Sinclair told me that he saw him at Wick, his machine drawn by four horses of different sizes and colors, each of his postillions in long black cloaks, hats with cockades to 'em, hunters' whips, a sword on one side and a pistol on the other; furnish me with such an equipage galloping thro' a street. I had forgot to say, in his procession at the burial, in a cold rainy day, he had his horse covered with a net made of white, red, and green silk."

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THE SINCLAIR SUTHERLANDS OF RISGILL OR SWINZIE.

The Sinclair Sutherlands of Risgill or Swinzie.

On the death of James Sutherland of Langwell, in 1708, his second daughter, Anne, succeeded to the estate of Risgill. In 1717 she married Alexander Sinclair of Swinzie, now called Lochend, a property which he got from his father, George Sinclair of Barrock, he being the eldest son of Barrock's second marriage to Elizabeth, daughter of David Murray of Clairden. After Anne Sutherland's marriage, the estate of Risgill was called Swinzie, and the family took the name of Sutherland, or Sinclair Sutherland. Alexander Sutherland died in 1738, leaving a son, James.

James Sutherland of Swinzie is mentioned as being a "very facetious, entertaining man, who loved to pass his jokes." In 1739 his mother disponed the estate to him, and in 1743 he married his cousin-german, Jean, daughter of John Sinclair of Durran. She was known as "Lady Swinzie," and resided during the latter part of her life in Thurso, where she died, a very old

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The Sinclair Sutherlands of Risgill or Swinzie.

woman, in 1819. James Sutherland had a son and three daughters:[1]—

1. John.
1. Anne, who married Captain Patrick Sinclair of Durran, R.N.
2. Janet.
3. Elizabeth, who married Benjamin Henderson, tacksman of Clyth. The late Dr. James Henderson, Clyth, and several other sons and daughters, were the issue of this marriage. Mrs. Henderson and one of her sons perished by shipwreck in Wick Bay.

JOHN SUTHERLAND OF SWINZIE was served heir to his father in 1777; he married Margaret, daughter of Donald Williamson of Banniskirk, and died without issue in 1789.

PATRICK SINCLAIR SUTHERLAND OF SWINZIE was eldest son of Captain Patrick Sinclair of Durran, and was served heir to his uncle in 1789. In the same year Swinzie, Risgill, and Munsary were sold for £5500 to Lieutenant John Gordon, Sutherlandshire, who was the first of the Gordons of Swinzie.

[1] James Sutherland built the present house of Swiney about 1750.

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THE MOWATS OF BUCHOLLIE AND FRESWICK.

THE family of Muat or Mowat is said to have originally borne the name of Montealt, from lands so designated in Flint, North Wales; and the name occurs in the Ragman Roll and other documents as "de Monte alto." They are supposed to have settled in Scotland in the reign of David I., the principal family having been that of Buchollie, now called Hatton, near Turriff, in Aberdeenshire.

The date of the Mowats' first connection with Caithness is uncertain. The earliest writ extant concerning the lands of Freswick is a charter granted by King Robert Bruce to one of this family; and between 1406 and 1413 the Duke of Albany, as Regent of Scotland, confirmed a wadset of Freswick and Aukingill, granted by William Mowat of Loscraggy to his son John—the same person who, in 1419, was killed at the chapel of St. Duthus, at Tain, by Thomas M'Kay of Strathmore. Loscraggy was in the barony of Buchollie, in Aberdeen. There is an indenture, dated in 1495, between Alexander Mowat of Loscraggy, as nearest and lawful heir of

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The Mowats of Bucholllie and Freswick.

William of Clyne, his cousin, and William of Clyne, son of the said William, whereby Alexander Mowat confirms to William, the son, a right granted to him by his father of Knock-clyne, Clyne-leish, etc., in Sutherland; and William confirms to Alexander the lands of Cultalord, Drynie, and others in Ross, now the estate of Cadboll.

Buchollie Castle, a short distance from the house of Freswick, of which there still exist considerable and picturesque ruins, was the ancient residence of the Caithness Mowats, and it is supposed to occupy the same site as Lambaburgh, which was a fort and stronghold in 1142. The name of the castle and the family title were, no doubt, derived from the Aberdeenshire property of the Mowats, but it does not appear that their lands in Caithness, which form the modern estate of Freswick, went by the name of Buchollie.

From the time of William Mowat, in 1413 to 1522, there is an interval during which no mention is found of the Laird of Buchollie. In the latter year, however, Magnus Mowat of Loscraggy and Freswick was infeft in Harpsdale.

In 1548 Patrick Mowat of Buchollie entered into a contract with Malcolm Halcro of that Ilk, in Orkney, for the marriage of their son and daughter.

In 1549 Patrick Mowat sold, under reversion, the lands of Tofts, Overtyre, and Aukingill, in the barony of Freswick, to Alexander Mowat in Tofts; and in 1554 Patrick is mentioned as "Lord of Buchollie and

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Freswick." Whether this Patrick was the son of Magnus Mowat of 1522 does not appear. Patrick Mowat had a son, Patrick, and probably a daughter.

In Hay's "Sinclairs of Roslyn," John and Patrick Sinclair of Ulbster are said to have been sons of "Margaret Mowat, daughter of *James* Mowat of Buchollie and Lucy Gordon, daughter of the Laird of Gight." William Sinclair, their father, died in 1573, and if Margaret Mowat's father was James, he may have been also the predecessor and father of Patrick Mowat of 1549 and 1554.

PATRICK MOWAT OF FRESWICK AND HARPSDALE was served heir to his father in these lands in 1565, and appears on record until 1593. He is, no doubt, the Patrick Mowat of Buchollie who is mentioned in the Spalding Papers, referred to by Calder, as witness to a testamentary deed by Andrew, Earl of Errol, dated at Slains Castle, 3d October 1585.

Patrick Mowat married Christian Ogilvie, and had two sons and a daughter :—

1. Magnus.
2. James.

1. Isabella, who was the first wife of William Bruce of Stanstill, and died in 1601, as appears from the inscription on a gravestone, originally placed inside the kirk of Canisbay, and now standing in the kirkyard, wherein she is named as "Lady Stanstill, daughter of the Laird of Buchollie."

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The Mowats of Buchollie and Freswick.

MAGNUS MOWAT OF FRESWICK obtained a charter from his father in 1602. He married Isabella Cheyne, relict of John Kennedy of Kermuick, Aberdeenshire, a family which held possessions for some time in the island of Stroma. In 1605 Magnus sold his lands of Harpsdale to the Earl of Caithness. He died in 1634, and appointed his son-in-law, Sir John Sinclair of Dunbeath, to be his executor. He left 2000 merks to Thomas Mowat, son of James of Ardo; and he directed Roger Mowat, advocate, to give titles to his brother and successor, James. He had two daughters:—

1. Elizabeth.
2. Christian, who was, in 1601, infeft in Loscraggy and other lands. She married Sir John Sinclair of Geanies and Dunbeath.

JAMES MOWAT OF FRESWICK obtained a precept of *clare-constat* in 1634 as heir to his brother, Magnus.

In 1634 there was an agreement between Patrick Mowat of Buchollie and James Mowat of Freswick, by which the latter became bound to dispone Freswick to his grandson, Magnus.

ROGER MOWAT OF BUCHOLLIE, Advocate, obtained a Crown charter in 1635; and in 1644 a charter of novodamus, on which he was infeft in 1645. Probably these charters relate only to the Aberdeenshire estate, and it is thought that this Roger Mowat of Buchollie was the

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same who joined Montrose as a Royalist, and who was slain at the battle of Alford in 1645. In 1629 he had apprized Swinzie and Brabstermyre from the Mowats, who were then the owners of these properties, and in 1644 he is designed as heritable proprietor of these lands. The Mowats of Bucholllie and Freswick.

Sir George Mowat of Bucholllie was, in 1653, served heir-male to his father, Roger, in the lands of Freswick, Burnside, Harlie, Middletown, Oakengill, Strupster, and others, in the parish of Canisbay, with the patronage of the kirk of Canisbay, which belonged to the family in 1610, and which had all been united with the Aberdeenshire estate into the barony of Bucholllie.

Although it is presumed that Roger Mowat and his son, Sir George, were descended from Patrick Mowat of Bucholllie, it is not known that Patrick was the son of James Mowat of Freswick, and it is probable that the estate of Freswick had come to be possessed by a branch of the family separately from Bucholllie. It may thus have been only the superiority of the Freswick estate which was included in the titles made up by Roger Mowat and his son, Sir George.

Magnus Mowat of Bucholllie, the grandson of James Mowat, was the last Mowat of Freswick. In 1651 he married Jean, daughter of Alexander Sinclair of Latheron. In 1661 Freswick was sold to William Sinclair of Rattar, grandson of Sir John of Greenland, and it has ever since belonged to the Sinclair family.

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THE MOWATS OF BRABSTERMYRE AND SWINZIE.

The Mowats of Brabstermyre and Swinzie.

BRANCHES of the family of Mowat possessed Brabstermyre early in the sixteenth century; and Swinzie in the seventeenth century.

I. The first MOWAT OF BRABSTERMYRE seems to have been GILBERT MOWAT, who in 1517 obtained a charter from Keith of Inveruggie. No doubt Brabstermyre had formed part of the estates of the Cheynes, which were acquired by the Keiths, through their alliance by marriage with the Cheynes. Gilbert Mowat was succeeded by his son, Malcolm.

II. MALCOLM MOWAT OF BRABSTERMYRE got a precept in 1541-42 from William Keith, Earl Marischal, and his spouse. He had a son, John.

III. JOHN MOWAT OF BRABSTERMYRE got a precept in 1583 from George, Earl Marischal. He had a son, Andrew.

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The Mowats of Brabstermyre and Swinzie.

IV. ANDREW MOWAT OF BRABSTERMYRE got a precept as heir to his father, in 1595, from George, Earl Marischal. He was twice married; first to Elizabeth Sinclair; and, secondly, to Elizabeth Knowles, who survived him, and who, in 1637, is designed as his relict. He had three sons and two daughters:—

1. George, who appears to have died before his father.
2. Patrick, who was a Justice of the Peace in 1634.
3. William.
1. Elizabeth.
2. Jean.

In 1627 Andrew Mowat and his son, George, sold Brabstermyre and Slicklie to Sir John Sinclair of Geanies and Dunbeath. By Sir John the estates were settled on his nephew, John Sinclair, first of Brabstermyre. Andrew Mowat died, it is supposed, about 1634.

I. The Mowats of Swinzie appear about 1638, when we find PATRICK MOWAT OF SWINZIE, who married Elizabeth Leask, and was succeeded by—

II. ALEXANDER MOWAT OF SWINZIE, who married Jean, daughter of Hugh Halcro of that Ilk.

In 1644 Roger Mowat, Advocate, appears as "heritable proprietor" of Swinzie, but he was only an adjudging creditor. Alexander Mowat had two sons:—

1. Patrick.
2. Hugh.

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The Mowats of Brabstermyre and Swinzie.

III. PATRICK MOWAT OF SWINZIE was succeeded, in 1679, by his brother, Hugh.

IV. HUGH MOWAT OF SWINZIE is mentioned as late as 1687 and 1698. In the latter year he sold the lands to George Sinclair of Barrock, and they are now known as Lochend.

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THE BUDGES OF TOFTINGALL.

The Budges of Toftingall.

In a manuscript "Genealogie of the Lairds of Toftingall," in the possession of Sir Patrick Murray Threipland of Fingask, much information is contained respecting the earlier history of the family of Budge. In this manuscript it is stated, that, "Whence they came or took their name is unknown for the most part, but by common tradition it is affirmed, by all that know the family, that they are descended of the family of Macdonald, and that the first of this family that came to Caithness fled thither for slaughter, and changed his name from Macdonald to Budge. The late Sir Donald Macdonald of Sleat, chief of that name, affirmed that Budge of Toftingall are of his family, as he pleaded the same with Donald Budge, then of Toftingall, in the year 1685, at the general convention of gentlemen and others for apprehending the Earl of Argyle, and offered to prove the time of their cadency by authentick writs in his charter-chest." This Sir Donald Macdonald was the third baronet of the old Macdonalds of Sleat, now represented by Lord Macdonald.

Hugh Macdonald of Sleat, who was third son of Alexander, tenth "Lord of the Isles," is said to have had

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The Budges of Toftingall.

a son, Donald, who was called "Gallach," from his having been fostered in Caithness, by his mother's relations of the Clan Gunn, to which she belonged. Donald Gallach's grandfather, Alexander, died in 1449, and as the Budges had certainly settled in Caithness towards the end of the fifteenth century, their descent from the Macdonalds, and their connection with the county, through Donald Gallach, are not improbable.

The "Genealogie" appears to have been written about the end of the seventeenth or beginning of the eighteenth century, and consists principally of an inventory of the older family writs, several of which are stated to be "not legible by reason of the badness of the write, length of time, and ill-keeping." On the margin is written, in an old hand, date 8th February 1703, the following list of lairds :—

1. Nicholas, 1400-4.
2. Nicholas, 1400-15.
3. Magnus, 1400-21.
4. Sir Henry, 1400-37.
5. Nicholas, 1500.
6. Magnus, 1500.
7. William, 1500.
8. James, 1600.
9. William, 1600.
10. William, 1600.
11. Donald, 1600.
12. William, 1700.
13. James.

The earliest writ noticed is the notarial double of a charter granted by "Henricus de Sancto Claro, Comes Orchadiæ," to ——— Budge, of tenements in Wick, but it bears no date. A charter granted by one or other

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of the two Henrys, Earls of Orkney, would carry the Budges back to between 1379, the date of the creation of the first Henry St. Clair, as Earl of Orkney, and 1420, when the second Earl of the name died. In the "Origines Parochiales" (*vide* Olrick) there is mention of *Magnus Buge,* Rector of Olrick in 1455; and Magnus is a family name among the Budges.

The first legible charter is one said to have been granted to Nicholas Budge of Toftingale, in July *1403*, but as the granter was William St. Clair, Earl of Caithness, it is evident that the correct date is 1503, for since the first Earl of Caithness of that name did not acquire the earldom till 1455, and since the second Earl, William, succeeded in 1476 and died in 1513, the charter must have been granted by the latter. This charter would seem to have been granted to Nicholas No. 1 in the list, who appears to have really flourished till 1504. A like correction in the century falls to be made in the three subsequent names on the list. Commencing, then, with the charter in 1503, we have—

I. NICHOLAS BUDGE OF TOFTINGALL.—The list gives two of this name, but as Magnus, the third on the list, appears to have got a precept from John, Earl of Caithness, dated 21st February 1515 (in MS. 1415), as heir to Nicholas, who flourished till 1515, we may assume that Nicholas No. 1 is the first laird in regard to whom we have written evidence, and that—

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The Budges of Toftingall.

II. NICHOLAS BUDGE OF TOFTINGALL may have been his son.

III. MAGNUS BUDGE got a precept as heir to, and most probably as the son of, Nicholas No. 2, of the three-penny land of Toftingall and tenements in Wick. There is also a charter by "Alexander," Bishop of Caithness, "Magno Budge de Wick," of a croft and tenements in Wick, dated at Wick, 10th January 1421, according to the MS., but there was no Bishop Alexander at this date, and supposing the correct date to be 1521, the then Bishop was Andrew, and not Alexander. Magnus was succeeded by his son, Sir Henry.

IV. SIR HENRY BUDGE OF TOFTINGALL was served heir to his father, Magnus, on 19th November 1537 (in MS. 1437). He was treasurer of the Church revenues of Ross, and was doubtless a priest, to the members of which order the title of "Sir" was frequently given. Various treasurers of Ross were so styled.

On 29th April 1538 Sir Henry entered into an agreement with Anna Wemyss, his father's "relict," but apparently not his own mother, whereby she sold her right of terce in the lands of Toftingall for seven merks Scots yearly. He appears to have been succeeded by—

V. NICHOLAS BUDGE OF TOFTINGALL, who held a wadset of Brabsterdorran in 1567, and who occurs in

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1573 as sitting on an inquest. In what degree of relationship he stood to Sir Henry is not known. The Budges of Toftingall.

In the list of lairds we have no fewer than five, viz. Magnus, William, James, William, and William, between Nicholas (No. 5) and Donald (No. 11), who was in possession in 1627. But of the existence of these five there is no written evidence, and it is not very probable that in the short space of fifty-four years there could have been so many proprietors in succession.

VI. DONALD BUDGE OF TOFTINGALL was laird in 1627. He had a brother, William, who is the same William Budge who was in Bualglass, on the estate of Forse, in 1627, who was afterwards in Harpsdale. He had Mybster and Tormsdale in 1660, the two latter being acquired from the Earl of Caithness for 5180 merks.

There is, or there was, about the beginning of this century, a local tradition that a house at Dale, called "the Tigh-na-tuir," or House of the Tower, was built by one of the Budge family whose father bore the name of "William Ballugais." The word Ballugais is not Gaelic, and in the absence of any other explanation of its import, it is thought that "William Ballugais" was "William Bualglass," or William Budge in Bualglass, who was afterwards of Mybster or Myribster and Easterdale. The builder of the House of the Tower would consequently be William's son, Donald. This house can scarcely have been the existing house of Dale.

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The Budges of Toftingall.

Donald Budge had three sons and a daughter :—

1. William, his successor.
2. Alexander in Harpsdale, whose eldest son, Henry, it is supposed was the Henry Budge who married Elizabeth, daughter of Patrick Sinclair of Southdun, who was his cousin.
3. Nicholas, who was in Toftingall from 1651 to 1682.

1. Margaret, who married in 1651, Alexander Calder, in Strath of Bylbster.

VII. WILLIAM BUDGE OF TOFTINGALL died without issue, about 1675.

William Budge of Easterdale and Mybster, the brother of Donald of Toftingall, married Katharine Murray, probably of the Pennyland Murrays, and had a son, Donald Budge, styled of Easterdale. About 1683, after the death of his cousin-german, William Budge of Toftingall, Donald Budge appears to have adjudged that estate; and thereafter it and the tenements in Wick passed into the Easterdale and Mybster branch of the family, instead of descending to the younger brothers of William Budge of Toftingall.

VIII. DONALD BUDGE, when fiar of Easterdale and Mybster, married, in May 1672,[1] Elizabeth, second daughter of David Sinclair of Southdun and his wife, Jean, daughter of John Sinclair of Ulbster.

[1] Contract of Marriage.

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In the churchyard of Watten the following inscription appears on the gravestone of this lady :—

"Here lies the Dust of ane Honest Discreit and Ciuill Gentle Woman Elizabeth Sinclair Meistress of Toftingall who departed from Tyme to Eternitie on the —— day of August 1685."

William Budge of Toftingall was a party to the contract of marriage.

After the acquisition of Toftingall, by Donald Budge, about 1683, the family estate comprehended, as it still does, Toftingall, Easterdale, Mybster, and Spittal. Spittal was apprized by Donald Budge about 1672 from Murray of Pennyland, who held it under a contract of wadset in 1648, from John Sinclair of Brims.

Donald Budge had three sons and two daughters :—

1. William, his successor.
2. David, tutor of Toftingall, who married Janet, daughter of John Forbes, Commissary of Caithness.
3. James, Writer to the Signet, 1738.

1. Jean, eldest daughter, who married Hugh M'Kay of Strathy.
2. Katharine, who married Alexander Sinclair of Olrig.

IX. WILLIAM BUDGE OF TOFTINGALL married, in 1696, Esther, daughter of James Sutherland of Langwell, and had a son, James.

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The Budges of Toftingall.

X. JAMES BUDGE OF TOFTINGALL was in minority at the time of his father's death, and his uncle, David, took the management of the estate as "Tutor of Toftingall." James Budge married Janet, daughter of John Campbell of Castlehill. In 1751 he executed an entail of the estates. He died without issue, and was succeeded by his cousin, William.

XI. WILLIAM BUDGE OF TOFTINGALL, the son, it is thought, of David Budge, was a Writer to the Signet, and died 1766. He had two sisters, Jean, who married Richard Murray of Pennyland; and Isabella, who married Patrick Calder of Lynegar. He married Katharine Sinclair, who survived him, and is supposed to have been his cousin, daughter of Alexander Sinclair of Olrig. (*Vide* Sinclair of Olrig). He had two daughters:—

1. Janet.
2. Grizzel.

XII. JANET BUDGE OF TOFTINGALL died unmarried, and was succeeded by her sister, Grizzel.

XIII. GRIZZEL BUDGE OF TOFTINGALL also died unmarried.

In 1799 the succession devolved, under the entail, upon the descendants of Jean Budge and Richard Murray of Pennyland, in the person of their daughter, Janet Murray, heiress of Pennyland and Toftingall.—*Vide* Murray of Pennyland.

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THE MURRAYS OF PENNYLAND.

The Murrays of Pennyland.

IT is probable that the Caithness branch of the Murrays came from the Morays or Murrays who settled in Sutherlandshire at a remote period, and who figure largely in the feuds which form the history of that county in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The principal Caithness families of the name are those of Pennyland, Clairden, and Castlehill, all of them nearly allied.

I. The first "MURRAY OF PENNYLAND" was WILLIAM RONALDSON or MURRAY, who, in 1549, got a charter from the Bishop of Caithness of tenements in Thurso, and who got in 1559 a charter of Pennyland to himself and his wife, Isobel Dundas. Pennyland had previously belonged to the Bishopric, and when, in 1557, Bishop Robert gave a grant of Bishop lands to John, Earl of Sutherland, there is mention of "the lands, not named, of John M'Ewen and William Ranaldson, except the crofts of Scrabster." In 1560 William Ranaldson of Pennyland was witness to a charter of the lands of Forss and Baillie, granted by John, Earl of Sutherland, to David Sinclair of Dun, and in the same year he was witness to a charter,

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The Murrays of Pennyland.

also by the Earl, of the lands of Westerseat, near Wick, to Hutcheon Murray, *alias* Pyper, from whom came the name of "Pyper's croft," as the lands were afterwards and still are called.

William Ranaldson or Murray had two sons:—

1. Walter, his successor.
2. John, in Clairden. In 1568 his father resigned in his favour tenements in Thurso, and mentions him as his second son.

II. WALTER or WALTER WILLIAM MURRAY OF PENNYLAND had a son, John, who is named along with him in a charter in 1590.

III. JOHN MURRAY OF PENNYLAND got a charter in 1609 from Alexander, Bishop of Caithness, to himself in liferent and to his son, William, in fee. In this charter he is designed as son of Walter Murray. He had two sons:—

1. William, his successor.
2. John.

IV. WILLIAM MURRAY OF PENNYLAND was succeeded by his brother, John.

V. JOHN MURRAY OF PENNYLAND obtained in 1630 from John, Bishop of Caithness, a precept of *clare constat* as heir to his brother-german, William. In 1663 he had

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a wadset of Scotscalder. In 1674 there is a charter by him and his wife, Margaret Murchison, and his name is of frequent occurrence in the kirk-session records of Thurso as an elder. He had five sons and two daughters :— The Murrays of Pennyland.

1. James, his successor.
2. Richard, designed of Scotscalder, in virtue of the wadset right to his father of which he got an assignation. Richard also got a disposition from his father in 1663 to a wadset of Lieurary, and he was one of the Commissary deputes of Caithness. He appears to have been twice married, namely, to Jean Cunningham, and to Jean, daughter of Smith of Braco. The disposition in 1663 to the wadset of Lieurary is in favour of himself and Jean Cunningham, his spouse, and John, their eldest son; and in December of the same year there is a charter of confirmation by the Bishop to him and Jean Smith. His children were five sons and three daughters: John; Patrick, afterwards of Pennyland; James; Richard, a merchant in Leith (who had a son, James, and two daughters, Jean and Anne); David, in Clairden; Mary, who married the Rev. James Oswald; Margaret, who married the Rev. George Oswald; and Elizabeth, who married John Sinclair of Forss.
3. David, of Clairden.
4. John, a Writer in Edinburgh in 1667.

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The Murrays of Pennyland.

5. Francis.

1. Katharine, who married, in 1670, George Gray, Minister of Loth; and, in 1674, William Cumming, Minister of Halkirk, by whom she had four daughters: Elizabeth, who married George Sinclair of Barrock; a daughter, who married a Mr. Bruce; Barbara, who married, in April 1703, Patrick Sinclair of Brabsterdorran; and a daughter, who married Cumming of Craigmiln, Morayshire, whose daughter, Rachel, married William Sinclair, of the Customs, Thurso, of the Dun family.

2. Barbara, who married, in 1656, James Innes of Thursater.

VI. JAMES MURRAY is designed OF PENNYLAND in 1670. He was twice married, first to Elizabeth, daughter of Captain John Wemyss of —— and Janet Murray;[1] and, secondly, to Elizabeth Willson, who was his relict in 1697.

By his first marriage he had a son and three daughters:—

1. James, designed as his eldest lawful son, who seems to have died without issue.

1. Elizabeth, who married William Campbell, Sheriff-clerk of Caithness.[2]

[1] Contract of Marriage and Disposition by John Murray of Port of Ormlie, 1659.

[2] Contract of Marriage, 1684.

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2. Janet, who married Patrick Sinclair of Southdun.
3. Margaret, who married Evander M'Ivor of Lochmiln.

By his second marriage he had an only daughter, Katharine, who married, in 1690, James Murray of Clairden.

James Murray of Pennyland was succeeded by Patrick, eldest son of Richard Murray of Scotscalder and his wife, Jean Smith. Scotscalder had a son, John, who is mentioned as the "eldest son" of him and Jean Cunningham, but he may only have been eldest son of that marriage, and may have died before the succession to Pennyland had opened by the death of James Murray.

VII. PATRICK MURRAY OF PENNYLAND married ——, daughter of James Cunningham of Geise. In 1700 he acquired the right of reversion of the wadset of Scotscalder, held by his grandfather, John. From 1696 to 1698 he was one of the commissioners for the county in the Scottish Parliament; and in 1701 he entered into a feu-contract with Ulbster in regard to Scotscalder. He had seven sons and two daughters:—

1. James, his successor.

Pennyland appears to have been adjudged by James Murray of Clairden and Alexander Sinclair of Barrock, and to have been sold to James Murray for £500, the rental being then £25. Mr. Sinclair states that about the middle of last century the usual selling price of land

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The Murrays of Pennyland.

in the county was twenty years' purchase of the free rental.

2. Richard, who seems to have taken up the succession on the death of his brother, James.
3. David.
4. Alexander.
5. Peter.
6. William.
7. Adam.

1. A daughter, who married James Fall,[1] a merchant in Dunbar, and whose daughter, Janet, married Sir John Anstruther of Anstruther.

It has been supposed that Patrick Murray had another daughter who married M'Kay of Strathy; but the only marriage of the Pennyland Murrays with that family, so far as is known, was that of the daughter of Richard Murray, Patrick's son, to Hugh M'Kay, second of Strathy.

VIII. JAMES MURRAY OF PENNYLAND was served heir to his father in 1729. He married Helen, daughter of William Miller of Mugdrum, and appears to have had no issue. He was dead in 1731.

IX. RICHARD MURRAY OF PENNYLAND married Jean, sister of William Budge of Toftingall, W.S., and had a son and two daughters:—

[1] Douglas.

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1. Patrick, his successor.[1]
1. Janet.
2. Barbara, first wife of Hugh M'Kay, second of Strathy. In 1721 there was a bond to her and her four sons.

X. PATRICK MURRAY OF PENNYLAND died without issue, and was succeeded by his sister, Janet.

XI. JANET MURRAY OF PENNYLAND, and heiress of Toftingall under the entail of that estate by James Budge, married, in 1761, Dr. Stuart Threipland of Fingask, and these properties are now possessed by her grandson, Sir Patrick Murray Threipland Budge of Fingask and Toftingall, Baronet.

[1] In 1762 James Murray, described as Surveyor of the Customs, resided at Pennyland with his wife, Barbara, daughter of James Murray of Clairden, and two sisters, and in January 1770 he died, and was buried in Pennyland Chapel. Who he was is uncertain, and it is conjectured that he may have been a second son of Richard Murray. No mention is made of his having children. Bishop Forbes, who does ample justice to his hosts, mentions that he passed the 5th of August 1762 at Pennyland, "and most elegantly was he entertained there."

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THE MURRAYS OF CLAIRDEN AND CASTLEHILL.

The Murrays of Clairden and Castlehill.

JOHN MURRAY, "IN CLAIRDEN," was the second son of William Ronaldson or Murray, first of Pennyland. In 1568 he got a charter to tenements in Thurso on the resignation of his father. He had a son, William.

I. WILLIAM MURRAY was styled "OF CLAIRDEN." In 1614 he got a charter from Alexander, Bishop of Caithness, as eldest son and heir of John, of tenements in Thurso, to himself and his wife, Agnes Dalmahoy, in liferent, and to Ranald, their son, in fee. He had two sons :—

1. John.
2. Ranald.

II. JOHN MURRAY, IN CLAIRDEN, was served heir to his father, William, in 1655, in "William Ronaldson's tenements" in Thurso. He died about 1656, and had a son, James, who is mentioned in 1658 as eldest son, but of whom there is no further account; the next of the family who appear in connection with Clairden being David Murray.

III. DAVID MURRAY, STYLED OF CLAIRDEN, was third

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son of John Murray, fifth of Pennyland, and married Janet, daughter of John Cunningham of Brownhill and Giese. He was a person of considerable note in his time, and was holder of wadsets on Dunnet, Swinzie, Greenland, Carsgo, and Aimster, and although he was styled of Clairden, it is supposed that he had only a wadset of these lands. He had three sons and two daughters :— The Murrays of Clairden and Castlehill.

1. John, who is mentioned as "eldest son" in a bond to him by his father in 1675, and who appears to have died before his father.
2. James, afterwards of Clairden.
3. Patrick.

1. Elizabeth, who married, first, William Innes of Isauld; and, second, George Sinclair of Barrock.
2. Jean, who married William Innes, Writer to the Signet in Edinburgh.[1] Her father was then dead, and her mother, Janet Cunninghame, and her brother-german, James, are parties to the contract.

David Murray died in 1686, and was succeeded by his son, James.

IV. JAMES MURRAY OF CLAIRDEN was married three times—first, to Katharine, only daughter of James Murray of Pennyland,[2] by whom he had no issue; secondly, to Anne Cunningham, by whom he had a

[1] Contract of Marriage, 12th May 1693.

[2] Contract of Marriage, 6th February 1690.

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The Murrays of Clairden and Castlehill.

daughter, Barbara, who married (it is supposed) James Murray, surveyor of customs, Thurso, one of the Pennyland family; and, thirdly, to Margaret Sinclair, styled "Lady Clairden,"[1] daughter of George Sinclair of Barrock, and his wife, Anne Dunbar of Hempriggs. By this last marriage James Murray had two sons and five daughters:—

1. George, his successor.
2. David of Castlehill. Between 1750 and 1754 he purchased from James Budge of Toftingall the lands of Garth, which he afterwards excambed with James Sinclair of Durran for Stangergill, now part of the estate of Castlehill. He married Margaret, daughter of Harry Innes of Borlum, and had three sons and a daughter—namely, Alexander, in North Calder; John, who died unmarried; Captain James; and Barbara, who married Dr. Liddell, and had a son Andrew, and two daughters, Margaret and Elizabeth. Margaret Liddell married Major George Innes, brother of James Innes of Thrumster, and had two sons, William, Lieutenant-Colonel in the Honourable East India Company's Service, and Andrew, who both died unmarried. Elizabeth Liddell married Colonel Zulchè, and had no issue.

1. Jean, who married the Reverend George Traill of

[1] Contract of Marriage, 22d and 23d September 1702.

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Hobbister, Minister of Dunnet, and had issue. —*Vide* Traills.

2. Anne, who married the Reverend James Brodie, Minister of Latheron, and had issue.—*Vide* Brodies.
3. Elizabeth, who married the Reverend James Oswald, Minister of Dunnet, and had issue. —*Vide* Oswalds.
4. Janet, who married Professor Morton of St. Andrews, and had no issue.
5. Margaret, who married—first, David Sinclair of Southdun; and, secondly, John Gibson, Sheriff-substitute.

V. GEORGE MURRAY OF CLAIRDEN married his cousin, Jean, eldest daughter of John Sinclair of Barrock. He died in 1752, and was survived by his wife, who lived to an old age, and had two sons and five daughters:[1]—

1. James.
2. Alexander, a surgeon, who died unmarried. He was known by the name of "Tarras."

1. Barbara, who married William Brodie, Sheriff-substitute of Caithness, and son of James Brodie, Minister of Canisbay. She had no issue.
2. Anne, who married Thomas Stedman (or Steedsman, as signed by himself in 1766), and had two sons and two daughters: (1) Dr. William Sted-

[1] Discharge by them, 1766.

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man, who had three sons, George, John Gordon, and William, and three daughters, Lucretia (Mrs. Bushby), Anne, and Catherine; (2) George. Mrs. Stedman's two daughters were Jane and Margaret, who both died at Thurso, unmarried.

3. Margaret, who died unmarried.
4. Elizabeth.
5. Jean.

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THE CUNNINGHAMS.

The Cunninghams.

THE Cunninghams of Caprington in Ayrshire, and of Broomhill, date from the time of King David Bruce, and they became connected with Caithness early in the seventeenth century. In 1624 we find John Cunningham, Admiral Depute and Sheriff of Caithness, in the occupation of Geise, Ormlie, and Brownhill, and married to a lady of the family of Rattar.

The first Cunningham of Broomhill was John, second son of William of Caprington, who got in patrimony from his father the lands of Broomhill, which was the designation of this branch of the family, and continued to be so until the original family estate of Caprington was acquired by John Cunningham, the eminent advocate, who was created a baronet in 1669.

JOHN CUNNINGHAM, FIRST OF BROOMHILL, is said by Douglas to have been succeeded by a son, William, who is said to have got a Crown charter of the lands in 1629, and to have married, first, Janet, daughter of Patrick, first Lord Lindores, and by her to have had three daughters :—

1. Jean, married to Sinclair of Dunbeath.

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The Cunninghams.

2. Margaret, married to Innes of Borlum.
3. A daughter, married to Mr. Symmers.

According to the same authority, William Cunningham's second wife was "Elizabeth, daughter of William Sinclair of Rattar, descended of a second son of the Earl of Caithness, and now (1768) claiming the title of Earl of Caithness, and grand-aunt of the present laird of Rattar." The laird of Rattar and the claimant of the title in 1768 were one and the same person, and the only lady of the Rattar family who married into the family of Cunningham was Elizabeth, the daughter of Sir John Sinclair, first of Rattar, and the great-great-grandaunt of the laird of Rattar, who claimed and obtained the title of Earl of Caithness in 1768; but it will be seen that her husband was not William Cunningham. By this second marriage, however, Douglas says he had three sons and four daughters:—

1. Sir John, his heir.
2. James of Geise.
3. Adam, a Captain in the Army.
1. Janet, who married Murray of Clairden.
2. Isobell, who married Sinclair of Telstane.
3. Anne, who married Bruce of "Itam."
4. Mary, who married Stewart of Ascog.

In the pedigree of the Cunninghams, as given by Douglas, there is no mention of John Cunningham of Geise and Brownhill, Admiral Depute and Sheriff of Caithness; but that he was in the occupation of these

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lands in 1624 is shown by a receipt for rent paid by him in that year; and that he was Sheriff in 1625 is shown by a judicial ratification signed before him at Brims on 31st March of that year; while under the designation of John Cunningham of "Brownhill" he is repeatedly named in deeds and otherwise down to past the middle of the century; and in 1655 he was an Elder of the parish of Thurso, as appears from the Session Records. The Cunninghams.

John Cunningham of Brownhill was twice married. The name of his first wife has not been traced, but it is noticeable that Douglas, in his account of the family of Lindores, says that Janet, daughter of Patrick, first Lord Lindores, married Sir John Cunningham of Broomhill; while in his account of the Cunninghams he says that this lady married William Cunningham of Broomhill.

John Cunningham's second wife was undoubtedly Elizabeth Sinclair, daughter of Sir John, first of Greenland and Rattar. In March 1636 Sir William Sinclair of Cadboll brought an action against James Sinclair of Rattar, son of Sir John, for £3000 *borrowed by his brother, John, and him for payment of his sister Elizabeth's tocher to John Cunningham of Geise, her husband.*[1] William of Rattar, the son of James Sinclair, and the great-grandfather of William of Rattar, tenth Earl of Caithness, had no daughter Elizabeth.

The designation of "Brownhill" is unmistakably given to the John Cunningham who married Rattar's

[1] Bond, 8th May 1632.

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The Cunninghams.

daughter, and who occupied Geise, and was otherwise connected with the county; but, as has been already remarked, Douglas nowhere mentions any Cunningham "of Brownhill." There is a place near Thurso and Ormlie known as Brownhill; but whether John Cunningham acquired the designation from these lands, which he may have possessed as he did Ormlie, or whether the original family title was Brownhill, the "Broomhill" of Douglas being a misnomer or misprint, cannot now be ascertained. In a MS. Inventory of the Feus and Papers produced by the Caithness Vassals in 1720, John Cunningham of Geise is designed of "*Broomhill*," but this is the only instance discovered of his having been so designed.

John Cunningham had by his marriages five, if not six daughters, and five sons:—

1. Jean, who married in 1632 Alexander Sinclair of Latheron, brother of Sir John Sinclair of Dunbeath. No other lady of the name married into the family of Dunbeath and Latheron, and this lady must be the same as the Jean Cunningham of Douglas, who, as daughter of William Cunningham of Broomhill, married "Sinclair of Dunbeath." She married, in 1647, William Sinclair of Rattar, the nephew of that Elizabeth Sinclair who was the second wife of her father. In what year John Cunningham's second marriage took place is uncertain, but it was not later than 1636,

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and was probably only a few years earlier, as Elizabeth Sinclair's father died in 1622, and her brother, James (who, as we have seen, borrowed money to pay her tocher), had only succeeded to the estate about 1634, on the death of an elder brother. Jean Cunningham was thus, almost certainly, of her father's first marriage. If she was of his second marriage, then she and her second husband, William of Rattar, were cousins-german. In her contracts of marriage in 1632 and 1647, and in other deeds, she is named as daughter of John Cunningham of Brownhill. The Cunninghams.

2. Margaret, who married William Innes of Borlum. This sister of Jean Cunningham is no doubt the same lady who Douglas says married Innes of Borlum, and who, according to him, was the daughter of William Cunningham. In 1651 John Cunningham signed a bond of caution for her in connection with the Borlum affairs, and although she is not designated as the daughter of John Cunningham, she must have been so if she was the sister of Jean, who was certainly his daughter. She seems to have considered herself a person of consequence, for in 1683 she writes stating her inability to assist her son, Henry Innes, and at the same time to maintain herself "as becomes a person of my quality."
3. Janet, who married David Murray of Clairden.

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The Cunninghams.

4. Isobel, who married Alexander Sinclair of Telstane.
5. Anne, who married John Bruce of *Ham*, no doubt the same lady who, according to Douglas, married "Bruce of Itam." She afterwards married William Sutherland, styled "of Ham," of which she had the liferent. This William Sutherland was a son of John Sutherland of Little Tarbol, Sutherlandshire, and in 1712 he disponed his whole estate and effects to his nephew, John Sutherland of Little Tarbol.
6. Mary, who married Stewart of Ascog. She was unquestionably the daughter of John Cunningham of Brownhill.

The five sons of John Cunningham were—

1. John, advocate, afterwards Sir John of Caprington.
2. James of Geise and Reaster. In 1677 he was an Elder of Thurso. He married Barbara, styled "Mistress of Geise," daughter of Sir James Sinclair of Murkle, and had a son who is designed William Cunningham of Reaster in 1686.
3. George, the third son, married Isabel Dundas. In 1698 he was dead, for in that year Isabel Dundas is designed, in an assignation of a bond granted by her husband's cousin, David Sinclair of Freswick, as "relict of umquhile Mr. George Cunningham, *brother-german of Sir John Cunningham of Caprington.*"

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4. Adam, who was in Carsgo in 1661. He is designed as fourth son of John Cunningham, and is, no doubt, the "Captain Adam Cunningham of Aukingill" who was a Commissioner of Supply in 1709. His wife was Jean Milburn.
5. Alexander.

In 1664 John Cunningham assigned a wadset held by him and his wife, Elizabeth Sinclair, on the Rattar estate, in favour of the following "*younger* children of his second marriage," namely, James, George, Adam, Alexander, and Mary. His only other children were John, the Advocate, afterwards Sir John, who is named in this deed as his eldest son, and his two daughters, Jean and Margaret. Since John is referred to in the assignation by the widow of George Cunningham as the brother-german of her husband, he was most probably a son of his father's second marriage. However this may be, all the persons named were certainly children of John Cunningham of Geise and Brownhill, though they are all (except George and Alexander) named by Douglas as the children of William of Broomhill. It is evident either that there was no William of Broomhill, and that John was the correct name of the son and successor of John, first of Broomhill, or that, if there was a William, he had no family, and that John of Broomhill was his brother, as John, and not William, was undoubtedly the father of Sir John, the ancestor of the present family of Caprington. Thus Douglas is clearly mistaken in his account

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The Cunninghams.

of the descendants of William Cunningham of Broomhill.

John Cunningham, advocate, is repeatedly mentioned as the son of John of Brownhill. In 1657 he assigned a bond to David Murray of Clairden, who had married his sister. M'Kay says that John Cunningham was born in Caithness and educated in Thurso, and that he was the eminent advocate who was created a baronet in 1669. Consequently he was the same Sir John who acquired Caprington by purchase after its sale by the creditors of his cousin, Sir William of Caprington.

Of still existing families in the county connected with the Cunninghams of Brownhill and Geise are the Traills of Rattar; the descendants of David Murray of Clairden and his wife, Janet Cunningham; and the family of Innes of Sandside, descended from Margaret Cunningham, "Lady Borlum."

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THE CALDERS OF LYNEGAR.

The Calders of Lynegar.

THE name Calder, in its older form of Caldell, is of considerable antiquity, and in the middle of the seventeenth century few names in the county are of more frequent occurrence. In 1508 we find William Caldell of Dun, and about the same period Donald Caldell, a proprietor in Wick. In 1525 a charter was granted to one Donald Caldell of lands of Dunnet and Barrock. This was probably the same person who married Helen Brisbane, one of the co-heiresses of considerable lands at Reiss and Ackergill, of which they were despoiled, when minors, by the Earl of Caithness. In 1558 Donald Caldell executed a deed in relation to the lands of Dunnet, and in 1563, his son, Donald of Barrock, resigned these lands *ad remanentiam* in favour of George, Earl of Caithness.

The principal families of the name were those of Lynegar, of Strath, of Bylbster, and of Achingale and Newton; but there were many others, holders of small wadsets in various parts of the county.

Of the Lynegar branch the first was probably ANDREW

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The Calders of Lynegar.

CALDER OF LYNEGAR, who in 1567 had a tack of Brabsterdorran.

CHARLES CALDER OF LYNEGAR was present at an inquest in 1573.

LAURENCE CALDER OF LYNEGAR, the son probably of Charles, died about 1629, leaving three sons:—

1. Charles, his successor.
2. Laurence, who, as son to umquhile Laurence of Lynegar, got a precept of *clare-constat* in tenements in Dunnet, and a farthing land there, in 1634, and who, in 1636, married Janet Davidson. He died before 1679, and had three sons—William, Andrew of Holland, who had a son Laurence, and John.
3. John, who, as narrated in a bond to his brothers, Charles and Laurence, in 1634, left Caithness "to travel in foreign countries."

CHARLES CALDER OF LYNEGAR, son of Laurence, married, before 1647, Margaret Sutherland, "Lady Dun," widow of David Sinclair of Dun, and daughter of Donald Sutherland of Forse. He was succeeded by his son, Laurence.

It is probable that the Calders of Lynegar were at first merely wadsetters; but in 1632 Charles Calder got a feu-charter of the lands from William, Lord Berriedale,

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and from that date, at all events, the family were proprietors. The Calders of Lynegar.

LAURENCE CALDER OF LYNEGAR got a disposition of the estate from his father in 1665, under reservation of his father's own liferent. In 1653 he married Isabel, eldest daughter of David Sinclair of Southdun, and he afterwards married Elizabeth Innes. In 1691-92 the Earl of Breadalbane disponed the lands to him and his wife in liferent, and to their son, James, in fee. Laurence was for some time Chamberlain to the Earl of Caithness, from whom he acquired Bowertower in 1692.

In 1661 Laurence Calder got a wadset from the Caithness family of the feu-duties of Lynegar, and he had from time to time various wadset rights in different parts of the county, such as Achalibster, Achscoraclate, etc.

By his first marriage he had four sons :—

1. William, fiar of Lynegar.
2. John.
3. Andrew.
4. Alexander.

By his second marriage he had several children, of whom the eldest was—

James, to whom in 1694 he disponed Halcro and Bowertower.[1] James sold the latter in 1717 to John Sinclair of Barrock.

[1] *Vide* Contract 1691-92, *ut supra*.

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The Calders of Lynegar.

Laurence Calder had also three daughters :—

1. Barbara.
2. Elizabeth.
3. Jean.

WILLIAM CALDER OF LYNEGAR married, in 1683, Elizabeth, only daughter of Walter Bruce of Ham, and of his wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Alexander Sinclair of Latheron, third son of George Sinclair of Mey. He died about 1698, and left a son, William.

WILLIAM CALDER OF LYNEGAR was a minor at his father's death, and had for his curator Alexander Sinclair of Olrig, whose father had married his mother. William married Marjory, daughter of Patrick Sinclair of Southdun, and had two sons :—

1. Patrick, his successor.
2. James.

PATRICK CALDER OF LYNEGAR married Isabel, youngest sister of William Budge of Toftingall, W.S. He and William of Rattar, tenth Earl of Caithness, were cousins-german, their mothers having been sisters. He had a son and a daughter :—

1. Alexander, his successor.
2. Jean, who married Mr. Russell, but whose issue are extinct.

ALEXANDER CALDER OF LYNEGAR held some office

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or employment in the Exchequer Office at Edinburgh, and was the last proprietor of Lynegar of this family. He married Barbara Gray, and had three sons and two daughters:—

1. Alexander, Colonel in the Madras Native Infantry, who married Anna Bunbury, and had a son, Francis, who married Mary Graham, and left no issue; and a daughter, Anna Bunbury, who married Mr. Wall, and has issue.
2. Francis, Captain, R.N., who died unmarried in 1855. He was a gentleman of most benevolent character, and a fountain has been erected in Belfast to his memory.
3. Patrick, Deputy Commissary-General, who died unmarried in 1853.

1. Isabella, who married William Sinclair of Freswick, and who died in 1812, leaving a son, John, and two daughters, of whom the eldest was Mrs. Thomson Sinclair of Freswick.—*Vide* Freswick.
2. Barbara, who died unmarried in 1870.

The late Mrs. Eliza Campbell or Grant, Thurso, writes, in 1826, to the late William Sinclair of Freswick, in reference to the Lynegar family, as follows:—"Sir James Calder, the father of Sir Harry and of Admiral Calder, was Equerry to the late Queen Charlotte, and his daughter married Admiral Hotham. I knew Sir James, and when he heard what part of Scotland I came from he particularly inquired for the Calders of

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The Calders of Lynegar.

Lynegar, who, he told me, were a very ancient family with whom he was connected, and had the honour of being a younger branch of the same family. He sent for Jean Calder (Mrs. Russell), and shewed her great attentions, as did Lady Calder and Mrs. Hotham."

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THE CALDERS OF ACHINGALE AND NEWTON.

The Calders of Achingale and Newton.

THERE is little doubt that the Calders of Achingale and Newton were nearly allied to the Lynegar and Strath family of the same name.

In 1577 Achingale was occupied by Robert Caldell, and from that date down to 1763 the Calders are found as tenants, wadsetters, or feuars of Achingale, Newton, and Banks of Scouthel. In 1629 Donald Calder of Newton obtained a feu-charter of these lands from the Earl of Caithness; in 1639 he and his wife, Isabel Murray, obtained a tack of Achingale from John, Master of Berriedale; and in 1665 Alexander Calder, then of Achingale, obtained a wadset of the feu-duties payable under the charter of 1629, and of the tack of 1639.

ALEXANDER CALDER OF ACHINGALE AND NEWTON died about 1678, and had three sons:—

1. Alexander, his successor.
2. Lieutenant Donald Calder of Newton.
3. John of Strath.

ALEXANDER CALDER OF ACHINGALE married Anne,

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The Calders of Achingale and Newton.

daughter of William Sutherland of Langwell, and widow of John Innes of Oust. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Alexander.

ALEXANDER CALDER OF ACHINGALE AND NEWTON married, in 1722, Elizabeth, daughter of Alexander Sinclair of Sixpenny, and had issue—

1. Donald.
1. Beatrice, who married William Henderson in Dirlot.

DONALD CALDER OF ACHINGALE died without issue.

BEATRICE CALDER, as heiress to her brother and father, disponed the lands in 1763 to her uncle, William Sinclair, in whose family they remained until 1804, when they were acquired by William Sinclair of Freswick. The reversion of the wadset of 1665 had come into the hands of Sir James Sinclair of Dunbeath, and was acquired by William Sinclair, his son-in-law.

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THE CALDERS OF STRATH.

The Calders of Strath.

BEFORE 1649 part of the lands of Strath of Bylbster was feued to the heirs of Marcus Calder.

In 1651 Alexander Calder of Strath married Margaret, daughter of Donald Budge of Toftingall; and in 1665 the Earl of Caithness gave a feu-charter of the whole lands to him and his wife.

In 1680, they, with consent of their son, Alexander, disponed Strath to Alexander Calder of Achingale.

In 1692, John Calder, brother-german of Achingale, and his son, Donald, got a disposition of Strath. John married Margaret Calder, and had issue :—

1. Donald.
1. A daughter who, in 1718, was wife of James Innes in Thrumster, grandfather of the late Major James Innes of Thrumster.

DONALD OR DANIEL CALDER OF STRATH married Elizabeth, daughter of David Sutherland of Ausdale, and great-granddaughter of William Sutherland of Langwell. He had two sons and three daughters :—

1. James, Collector of Excise, Thurso.

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The Calders of Strath.

2. Patrick, Captain in the 64th Regiment of Foot, who died unmarried in 1807.

1. Janet, who married Mr. Murray.
2. Margaret, who married Alexander Calder.
3. Emily, who died unmarried.

COLLECTOR JAMES CALDER OF STRATH had a son and a daughter:—

1. David.

1. Jean, who married Captain George Swanson, Gerston.

DAVID CALDER OF STRATH AND PENNYLAND sold Strath in 1801 to William Stewart in Downreay, father of the late General Stewart, and Pennyland he sold to Mr. Sinclair of Freswick.

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THE DUNBARS OF HEMPRIGGS.

The Dunbars of Hempriggs.

I. THIS branch of the family of Dunbar is directly descended from Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield, Knight, son of James Dunbar, fifth Earl of Moray, and great-grandson of John Dunbar, second Earl. He was born about 1425, and died 10th March 1497 or 1498. He married Isabel, daughter of Alexander Sutherland of Duffus, who died 11th November 1505. He had eight sons and a daughter, and was succeeded by his third son, Alexander.

II. ALEXANDER DUNBAR OF AULDCASH, KILBOYACH, AND KILCALMKILL, third son of Sir Alexander, was killed in 1498 by Alexander Sutherland of Dalred or Dirlot, in Caithness. He married Lady Janet Sutherland, who survived him. Sir Robert Gordon states that he married Margaret Baillie, widow, in 1460, of John, tenth Earl of Sutherland, which is a mistake, he having been only three years of age at the period of this alleged marriage. He was succeeded by his eldest son, James.

III. JAMES DUNBAR OF AULDCASH, CONZIE, KILCALMKILL, AND KILBOYACH, was born about 1480. He

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The Dunbars of Hempriggs

was served heir to his father in 1501, and died in 1553 or 1554. According to Douglas he married Helen Innes, and was succeeded by a son, James, who married Isobel Brodie, but it is proved by a deed registered at Edinburgh in 1539-40, that he was twice married at least, his first wife being Helen or Elen Innes, and his second wife being Isabel Brody or Brodie, and he was succeeded by his son, Alexander.

IV. ALEXANDER DUNBAR OF CONZIE AND KILBOYACH married Elizabeth, daughter of John, sixth Lord Forbes (ch. 1564), and had several sons, of whom the fifth was William, his successor.

V. WILLIAM DUNBAR OF STRUTHERS, afterwards of Hempriggs (of one-third of which he got a charter in 1574), is called portioner of Hempriggs in his father's will, which is dated 25th February 1577. He married Catherine, the daughter (and heiress probably) of John Anderson of Struthers and Janet Gibson, his spouse, and he died on 25th November 1624. He had four sons and a daughter:—

1. John, his heir.
2. James.
3. Ninian.
4. Robert.

1. Isobel, who married Hepburn of Inverlochty.

VI. JOHN DUNBAR OF HEMPRIGGS was twice married,

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and had by his first wife, Elizabeth, daughter of George Sinclair of Mey, a son, John. The Dunbars of Hempriggs.

VII. JOHN DUNBAR OF HEMPRIGGS, and also of LATHERONWHEEL (which he purchased), married Anna, eldest daughter of Andrew Fraser, Commissary of Inverness, and in his contract of marriage, dated 26th September 1624, his father, John Dunbar, made over to him his lands of Hempriggs "as they had been left to him by his father, William." John had two sons and three daughters:—

1. William, afterwards Sir William.
2. Robert of Northfield, afterwards Sir Robert.

1. Janet, who married Patrick Cumming of Ernside.
2. Catherine, who married William Geddes, Minister of Wick from 1659 to 1675.
3. Anne, who married her cousin, George Sinclair, first of Barrock. Of this marriage is descended the present representative of the family of Sinclair of Barrock.

VIII. SIR WILLIAM DUNBAR, who was created a Baronet of Nova Scotia in 1698, was a man of considerable ability and local influence. In 1691 he purchased the lands of Telstane, and changed the name to Hempriggs. He also purchased Old Wick and other lands on the south side of the water of Wick; and in 1699 he acquired the Ackergill estates, which formerly formed a barony held by the Keiths, Earls Marischal. He also

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The Dunbars of Hempriggs.

acquired the lands of Wick, Papego, South and North Kilmsters, and Miln of Wenless, which before 1591 were held by the Earl of Sutherland off the Bishop of Caithness and then of the Crown, and were in that year resigned by the Earl in favour of the Earl of Caithness. He held a commission from the Earl of Breadalbane as Sheriff and Justiciar of Caithness. He married his second cousin, Margaret, daughter of Alexander Sinclair of Latheron, by whom he had a son and a daughter :—

1. Benjamin, who married Janet, daughter of Patrick Sinclair of Ulbster, and who died before his father without issue.

1. Elizabeth.

On Sir William's death without male issue the baronetcy devolved on his brother, Robert, and the estates, under an entail executed by himself, on his daughter, Elizabeth. Elizabeth Dunbar married, first, Sir Robert Gordon of Gordonstoun, great-grandson of Alexander, fifteenth Earl of Sutherland, and had by him three sons and four daughters. From her third daughter, Lucy, who married David Scott of Scotstoun, is descended, maternally, the present Duke of Portland. Sir Robert having died in 1701, his widow married, secondly, James Sutherland, second son of Lord Duffus, who was created a baronet in 1706, under the title of Sir James Dunbar of Hempriggs. Of this second marriage there were two sons and four daughters :—

1. William, born in 1708.

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2. James, an officer in the army, who died in Jamaica in 1742 unmarried.

1. Janet, who married, first, John Sinclair of Barrock, by whom she had a son (John Sinclair of Sibster), and a daughter; and, secondly, Harry Innes of Borlum and Sandside.
2. Charlotte, born in 1712, who married Sir William Sinclair of Keiss, and had two sons, Captain Alexander, and Kennedy-Muir.
3. Elizabeth, who married Eric Sutherland, eldest son of Kenneth, third Lord Duffus (attainted in 1715). They had two daughters:—(1.) Elizabeth, who married, first, her cousin, Captain Alexander Sinclair, son of Sir William of Keiss; and, secondly, Charles Sinclair of Olrig, by whom she had an only daughter, Fenella; and, thirdly, the Reverend Mr. Rudd, Yorkshire, by whom she had a son and two daughters. (2.) Charlotte, who married Sir John Sinclair of Mey, and had issue, James, afterwards Earl of Caithness.
4. Rachel, who married James Sutherland of Langwell, and had a son, Robert, and a daughter, Elizabeth. Robert Sutherland married Ann Sinclair, heiress of Brabster.

IX. Sir William Dunbar of Hempriggs married, first, Elizabeth, only daughter of Alexander Dunbar of Westfield. Elizabeth Dunbar was the undoubted heir of

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The Dunbars of Hempriggs.

line of the old family of Dunbars, hereditary Sheriffs of Moray, descended from James, fifth Earl of Moray, of the Dunbar line. By this first marriage Sir William had a daughter, Janet, who married Captain Thomas Dunbar, styled, after his marriage, "of Westfield," and descended of the same stock as his wife. They had three sons and two daughters:—Patrick; Alexander, who died in 1782; William-Henry; Elizabeth, who married James Moodie of Melsetter, had issue, and died in 1798; Mary Maxwell, who married the Reverend Peter Nicolson of Shebster, Minister of Thurso, and had issue, and died in 1806.

Sir William married, secondly, Jean, daughter of David Sinclair of South Dun, by whom he had no issue.

He married, thirdly, Henrietta, daughter of Hugh Rose of Kilravock, and had by her two sons and three daughters:—

1. Benjamin, his successor.
2. Robert.

1. Elizabeth.
2. Alexandrina.
3. Williamina.

X. Sir Benjamin Dunbar of Hempriggs married Janet, daughter of George M'Kay of Bighouse, and had two sons and three daughters:—

1. George, his successor.
2. Captain Robert of Latheronwheel, who died unmarried, 11th August 1857.

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1. Louisa, who married Garden Duff of Hatton.
2. Elizabeth, who died unmarried.
3. Henrietta, who married William Sinclair Wemyss of Southdun.

On the death of James Sutherland, last Lord Duffus, the title was assumed by Sir Benjamin, as heir-male through his grandfather, Sir James Dunbar or Sutherland, but since his decease, in 1843, it has been in abeyance.

XI. Sir George Dunbar of Hempriggs devoted himself to country pursuits for many years, and carried on extensive improvements on the family estates, thereby largely enhancing their value. He added to their extent by the purchase of part of Myrelandhorn and of the estate of Sibster, and by the acquisition of the lands of Tannoch in exchange for portions of his Strathmore property. He set aside the entail executed by his great-great-grandfather, Sir William, and died 28th August 1875, unmarried.

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THE DUNBARS OF NORTHFIELD AND BOWERMADDEN.

The Dunbars of Northfield and Bowermadden.

I. ROBERT DUNBAR OF MYRELAND, AND OF NORTHFIELD, BOWERMADDEN, AND LISTER, was second son of John Dunbar of Hempriggs and of Latheronwheel. Having succeeded to the baronetcy on the death of his elder brother, Sir William of Hempriggs, he was styled Sir Robert of Northfield. In the Rebellion of 1715 he appeared with a party at the Cross of Wick, and drank the Chevalier's health.

He seems to have been twice married. In 1675 he married Mary, daughter of Patrick Sinclair of Ulbster. In 1708 he acquired Myreland and Quintfall from Lord Glenorchy; and about the same period Bowermadden and Belster were acquired by his son, Patrick. He died in 1742, and had four sons, and two, if not three, daughters:—

1. Patrick, his successor, who was the last-named substitute in the entail of Hempriggs, executed by Sir William Dunbar, his uncle.
2. William.

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3. James.
4. David.

These three younger sons are named in the Ulbster entail, and were doubtless of their father's marriage to Ulbster's daughter. They are all supposed to have died young.

5. Marjory, who married David Sinclair of Southdun.
6. A daughter, ——, who married George Manson of Bridgend.

In certain judicial proceedings in 1781 between Miss Katharine Sinclair of Southdun and George Manson Sinclair of Bridgend, it is stated, in reference to Miss Sinclair's father, David, and Bridgend's grandfather, George Manson, that a friendship which had existed from near neighbourhood came to be a closer connection "by intermarriages of two daughters of Sir Robert Dunbar." It is inferred that David Sinclair and George Manson each married one of Sir Robert's daughters, and of these, Marjory was the second wife of David Sinclair. The name of the other has not been ascertained, and reference is made to the notes on the Bridgend family for particulars regarding George Manson's marriages.

Sir Robert seems to have had a third daughter, for in "Fasti Eccles. Scot.," David Dunbar, minister of Olrig from 1735 to 1762, third son of John Dunbar of Kinsorth, married Mary Dunbar, who died in 1780, and their only son died in minority.

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The Dunbars of Northfield and Bowermadden.

II. SIR PATRICK DUNBAR OF NORTHFIELD, BOWERMADDEN, AND LISTER, was twice married, first, in 1697, to Katharine, youngest daughter of William Sinclair of Dunbeath, by whom he had two sons, Robert and William. In 1708, William, in a disposition to the lands of Lister, in which his father was liferenter, and he was fiar, he is designed as "eldest son," and in 1758 his father was served heir in special to him; and, secondly, in 1722, to Katharine, daughter of Joseph Brodie of Milntown, Morayshire, by whom he had two sons and three daughters:—

1. John, born in 1727, who married his cousin, Marjory, daughter of David Sinclair of Southdun, and died without issue.
2. Patrick, born in 1733, died young.

1. Elizabeth, who succeeded her father.
2. Anne.
3. Henrietta, who died unmarried.

III. ELIZABETH DUNBAR OF NORTHFIELD AND BOWERMADDEN, married James Sinclair of Durran, and had issue.—*Vide* Durran.

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THE TRAILLS OF CASTLEHILL AND RATTAR.

THE connection of this family with the county dates from the settlement of Dr. George Traill as minister of Dunnet in 1751.

In 1581, George Traill, of the family of Traill of Blebo, in Fife, settled in Orkney. He was twice married: to Jean Kennedy and to Isabella Craigie. From the former marriage are descended the Orkney families of Traills of Holland, Skaill, Tirlot, and Vena, and from the latter are descended the Traills of Quendal, Hobbister, Westness, and Weststove.

JAMES TRAIL, FIRST OF QUENDAL, was the son of George Traill by his second marriage, and he had three sons:—

1. James of Quendal, his successor.
2. George, first of Hobbister.
3. John of Sanday.

George Traill of Hobbister had two sons:—

1. James, who died in 1756.
2. George.

DR. GEORGE TRAILL, THIRD OF HOBBISTER, succeeded to that estate on the decease of his brother James in

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The Traills of Castlehill and Rattar.

1756. Having studied for the Church, he was settled as minister of Dunnet in 1751. In 1761 he purchased Castlehill; in 1773 he obtained the degree of D.D. from the University of King's College, Aberdeen, and in 1785 he died, aged 62.

In 1753 Dr. Traill married Jean,[1] daughter of James Murray of Clairden, and his wife, Margaret Sinclair (daughter of George Sinclair of Barrock and his first wife, Anne, daughter of John Dunbar of Hempriggs), and had two sons and three daughters :—

1. George, who died unmarried.
2. James, advocate, afterwards of Castlehill and Rattar.

1. Margaret.
2. Isabella.
3. Barbara.

These ladies all died unmarried.

JAMES TRAILL OF HOBBISTER, CASTLEHILL, AND RATTAR, was appointed Sheriff-depute of Caithness in 1788, and about 1789 he purchased the estate of Rattar. He married Lady Janet, youngest daughter of William Sinclair of Rattar, tenth Earl of Caithness, and died in 1843, in the eighty-fifth year of his age. He was held in the highest estimation during his long, active, and useful life, as an able judge and as a leading county gentleman.

[1] Ob. May 1810.

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Mr. Traill had three sons and six daughters :—

1. George, his successor.
2. John, a young gentleman of much promise, who died in early life.
3. James, barrister, who for many years was one of the Police Magistrates of London.

1. Williamina-Barbara.
2. Jean.
3. Isabella.
4. Mary.
5. Margaret, who died at Brighton, 3d June 1878, aged 82.
6. Janet.

These ladies all died unmarried. They were, during their lives, held in universal regard.

George Traill of Rattar represented Orkney in Parliament for three years. In 1841 he was elected member for the county of Caithness, which he represented until 1869, when he retired, having been returned in seven successive general elections, five times without a contest, and twice by majorities. He entered the House of Commons as a Liberal, and in his public career he was throughout eminently consistent, while in his private relations he was held in the greatest esteem as an upright and honourable man. He died, unmarried, at London, on 29th September 1871, in his eighty-third year.

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THE OSWALDS.

The Oswalds.

THE earliest member of this family of whom there is notice is James Oswald of Kirkwall, who was born about 1590, and died about 1660. He got a charter from the Earl of Caithness of tenements in Kirkwall. He had a son, James.

JAMES OSWALD was a Bailie of Wick. He married Barbara, daughter of Coghill of that Ilk, and had two sons:—

1. James, born in 1654.
2. George, born in 1674.

JAMES OSWALD was Episcopal minister of Watten. He married Mary, daughter of Richard Murray of Pennyland, and had two sons and two daughters:—

1. Richard of Scotston, a merchant in Glasgow, who died in 1763.
2. Alexander, a merchant in Glasgow, who died in 1766.

1. Margaret, who married Baird of Chesterhall.
2. Isabella, who married James Campbell of Lochend.

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GEORGE OSWALD, second son of Bailie Oswald, was ordained minister of Dunnet in 1697, and died in 1725. He married Margaret, daughter of Richard Murray of Pennyland, and had two sons and four daughters :— The Oswalds.

1. The Reverend James Oswald, Dunnet.
2. Richard Oswald of Auchencruive, who married Mary, daughter of Alexander Ramsay, Esq., Jamaica, and died in 1784 without issue.

In the original Statistical Account of Caithness it is asserted that Richard Oswald was an unsuccessful candidate for the Parish School of Thurso. This story must, however, be incorrect, for as Mr. Oswald was born in 1704, and as the Session Records show that the competition for the school took place in 1706, the unsuccessful competitor must have been a different person. The name Oswald was not uncommon in Thurso at that time.

In the published papers and correspondence of Lord Shelburne there is an account of his employment of Mr. Richard Oswald to negotiate peace with America, after the first war. Mr. Oswald is described as a well-known Scotch merchant in the city of London, who had originally become known as a contractor during the Seven Years' war, and who, being dissatisfied with the manner in which his business was carried on, went to Germany himself, and acted as Commissary-General of the army of the Duke of Brunswick. In 1759 he purchased the estate of Auchencruive, in Ayrshire. He married Miss Mary

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The Oswalds.

Ramsay, through whom he became possessed of extensive estates in America and the West Indies. Owing to his connection with these parts, he had already been frequently consulted by the Government during the war. In 1777 he had visited Paris, and made acquaintance with Vergennes and Franklin. He was known as holding very liberal views on economic and commercial questions, being a disciple of Adam Smith, to whom he owed his introduction to the Secretary of State. He left England with a letter from Lord Shelburne to Franklin in which his Lordship writes: "I have had a longer acquaintance with him than even I have had the pleasure to have with you. I believe him an honest man, and after consulting some of our common friends, I have thought him the fittest for the purpose. He is a practical man and conversant in those negotiations which are most interesting to mankind. This has made me prefer him to any of our speculative friends, or to any person of higher rank." The negotiation with America was ably conducted by Mr. Oswald, who received high praise for his remarkable singleness of purpose.

1. Jean, who married David Manson, merchant in Thurso, and left no issue.
2. Elizabeth, who married William Anderson, merchant in Wick, and had a son, Alexander, a merchant in London.
3. Mary, who married Andrew Robertson, minister of Farr in 1727, and afterwards of Killearn. She

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died in 1787. They had a son, Harry Oswald, a merchant in Glasgow. The Oswalds.

4. A daughter, who married John Sutherland, minister of Golspie in 1731, and of Tain in 1752, son of Arthur Sutherland, minister of Edderton. Mr. Sutherland had a numerous family of sons and daughters. The eldest son was William Sutherland, minister of Wick from 1764 to 1816.

From the Presbytery Records it appears that in 1699 the minister of Dunnet "delated" two persons, a man and a woman, "suspect of witchcraft," and requested the advice of the presbytery, who recommended the accused to be confronted with the witnesses, and a report to be made to next meeting; but there is no further account of the matter. This is about the last we hear of proceedings before church courts against witches in Caithness.

Dr. James Oswald, minister of Dunnet, was translated to Methven in Perthshire, and died in 1773. He married Elizabeth, daughter of James Murray of Clairden, and had four sons and three daughters:—

1. George of Scotston, who married Miss Smith of Methven, and died in 1819. He had four sons and five daughters: Richard, who succeeded his grand-uncle, Richard Oswald of Auchencruive, and died without issue; David, Captain in the Nineteenth Regiment; James, Captain in the

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The Oswalds.

Royal Navy; Alexander, an Advocate; Miss Oswald, afterwards of Scotston, who died in 1864, aged ninety-eight; Catharine, who married Mr. Haldane; Margaret, who married General Wilson; Christian, who married Alexander Anderson, merchant in London; and Mary, who married Mr. Dennistoun.

2. Alexander, of Shieldhall, who married Margaret, only daughter of John Dundas of Manor, and died in 1813. They had three sons and three daughters. The sons were—John, who died unmarried in 1800; James, a merchant in Glasgow, afterwards of Shieldhall, and M.P. for Glasgow, he succeeded to Auchincruive on the death of his cousin, Richard, and died unmarried in 1853, aged seventy-four; and Richard, who married his cousin, Miss Anderson, and had two sons and two daughters. Richard's eldest son, Alexander Haldane Oswald, in succession to his uncle, James, of Auchincruive, and M.P. for Ayrshire in 1843, married Lady Louisa, daughter of William, first Earl Craven. His only son died in 1868, and he himself died in September of the same year, leaving two daughters, Louisa Elizabeth, who married Colonel Farquharson of Invercauld, and another, who married the Honourable J. Manners Yorke. The second son of Richard Oswald was George, who succeeded to Auchincruive on the

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death of his brother, Alexander, and died in March 1871. The Oswalds.

The daughters of Alexander Oswald of Shieldhall were—Agnes, who died unmarried; the second was Lillias, who married Andrew Mitchell, Writer in Glasgow, and the third was Margaret, who married Dr. Macfadzean, Ardrossan.

3. James, third son of Dr. James Oswald.
4. Richard, who died young.

1. Janet.
2. Margaret.
3. Barbara, who married Mr. Laird, and had an only daughter, Miss Margaret Laird.

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THE INNESES OF THURSATER.

The Inneses of Thursater.

THE historian of the family of Innes of Innes asserts that they possessed "the third rig of Caithness, which they kept till the year 1540," and he supposes that they may have acquired some part of their Caithness possessions as early as 1260 or 1270. The editor of Forbes' account of the family, however, had been unable to discover any evidence of their having held lands in Caithness previous to 1507, at which date Alexander, son and heir of Alexander Innes of Innes, got a charter of Dunbeath, Reay, and Sandside. In 1541 and 1564 he obtained charters of various lands in Latheron, Wick, and Thurso parishes, which had previously belonged to the Oliphants; but these the Innes family do not appear to have held for any length of time. In 1529 Dunbeath, Reay, and Sandside had passed into the hands of the Sinclairs, that being about the time of the marriage of Alexander Sinclair of Stemster to Elizabeth Innes.

It is not known what was Elizabeth Innes's connection with the family of Innes; but about the middle of the seventeenth century, Margaret, only daughter of Alexander Innes of Innes, married William Sinclair of

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Dunbeath, the son and heir of Alexander Sinclair and Elizabeth Innes. In addition to these, several intermarriages took place between the house of Innes and the Caithness family. The Inneses of Thursater.

Other branches of the family, or at least persons bearing the family name, had a more permanent connection with the county, namely, the Inneses of Thursater and their collaterals, and the Inneses of Sandside.

The first notice we have of the Inneses of Thursater is in 1560, when "Maister Walter Innes of Thursater" appears as witness to a charter of the lands of Westerseat, granted by John, Earl of Sutherland, to Hutcheon Murray or Pyper, which was signed at Scrabster on 30th December in that year. In 1554 and 1566 a Mr. Walter Innes was vicar of Thurso, and he is also mentioned as having obtained from the Bishop in 1564 a lease of lands in Brims, adjoining Thursater. There can be little doubt of the identity of "Mr. Walter," the vicar, with "Maister Walter of Thursater," "*Maister*" having been the usual title of a preacher.

From 1567 down to 1582 Thursater was possessed by William Innes, who is described as of Thursater and portioner of Brims. He was also Bailie to the Bishop of Caithness. He had a son, Robert, who died before him.

It appears from a discharge dated 25th November 1582, and signed at Girnigo by William Innes, who is therein designed "of Bryms," that his son, Robert, married Margaret Sinclair, "Oy" or grandchild of George, fourth

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The Inneses of Thursater.

Earl of Caithness; and the discharge acknowledges payment of 100 merks from the Earl's son, George, Chancellor of Caithness, as in full satisfaction of 300 merks promised by the Earl in the contract of marriage of his "Oy." Whose daughter Margaret Sinclair was is not mentioned. Her name does not occur in the family pedigree, and it may have been that she was a daughter of William, the elder brother of the Chancellor, if she was not a daughter of the Chancellor himself.

ROBERT INNES had five sons :—

1. John.
2. Robert of Owst.
3. George of Skaill.
4. Alexander of Borrowstoun.
5. James in Watten.

JOHN INNES OF THURSATER, eldest son of Robert, married Isobel Innes, and had three sons :—

1. Robert, fiar of Thursater.
2. William.
3. Walter.

ROBERT INNES OF THURSATER had a son and a daughter :—

1. James, his successor.
1. Janet.

JAMES INNES OF THURSATER married in 1656 Barbara,

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daughter of John Murray of Pennyland; she must have been his second wife. James Innes had two sons and a daughter:— The Inneses of Thursater.

1. Robert, his successor.
2. John, surgeon in Edinburgh in 1683.
1. Margaret, who married William Sinclair of Thrumster, son of John, older of Brims, and grandson of John Sinclair of Ulbster,—his father and elder brother, both afterwards of Ulbster, being parties to the contract of marriage.

ROBERT INNES OF THURSATER received a disposition from his father, James, in 1665. He was apparently not the son of Barbara Murray, who married his father only in 1656. Robert had two sons:—

1. James, younger of Thursater, in 1668.
2. William.

James Innes of Thursater is found in the Kirk-Session Records as an Elder in 1666 and 1667, and there was a James Innes also in 1675.

James Innes of Thursater, "grandson of Robert Innes," was infeft in 1684, on a precept of *clare constat*, and was, it is presumed, the son of James, who was younger of Thursater in 1668, and afterwards of Thursater.

From 1684 there is no certain account of this family; but the last-mentioned James Innes appears to have had a son, Robert. At all events, in 1705, John Sinclair of Brims was infeft on a disposition of Thursater and Easter Brims, granted by Robert Innes of Thursater. There is

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The Inneses of Thursater.

a tradition that the last laird of Thursater was accustomed to attend the kirk of Thurso (of which he was an elder) with his "twelve children," which may account for the extinction of the family estate.

In 1718 a daughter of John Calder of Strath was the wife of James Innes in Thrumster, who was afterwards in Ollaclate. Their son, William, was also in Ollaclate, and was father of the late Major James Innes of Thrumster, and it is thought that the connection traditionally said to exist between the Inneses of Thursater and the Inneses of Thrumster was through this James Innes of 1718, and that he was probably the son or grandson of the last Innes of Thursater.

Reverting to the other sons of Robert Innes and Margaret Sinclair, there were:—

I. Robert Innes of Oust, in 1633, who married Elizabeth Sinclair, and died before 1671, leaving two sons and three daughters:—

1. George.
2. John.

1. Jean, who married Thomas Gunn or Rorieson in Thurdistoft.
2. Margaret, who married James Innes of Borrowstoun.
3. Janet, who married John Forbes in Achscrabster, in 1674.

There were apparently two families of Inneses of Oust,

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as we find in 1671 Elspeth Innes, relict of William Innes of Oust, and William, her eldest son. The Inneses of Thursater.

II. GEORGE INNES OF OUST married Katharine, daughter of Alexander Sinclair of Forss, and had a son, John.

III. JOHN INNES OF OUST appears from 1677 to 1682. He married Anna, daughter of William Sutherland of Langwell, a branch of the Sutherlands of Forse. They had a son and a daughter :—

1. John, to whom his uncle, James Sutherland of Langwell, was tutor.

1. Marion, who, in May 1703, married John, eldest son of Robert Calder in Winless, with consent of her mother, who was then wife of Alexander Calder of Achingale. Her tocher was 2800 merks.

Of the Oust branch there is no further account.

The third son of Robert Innes of Thursater was—

George Innes of Skaill, who had a son, Walter.

Walter Innes of Skaill married Katharine, daughter of Sir James Sinclair of Murkle, and had issue :—

1. John, who, as younger of Skaill, is included in the criminal letters in 1668 against the gentlemen of Caithness for their raid into Strathmore.
2. Walter.

1. Mary, who married Angus M'Kay of Golval, Strathnaver.

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The Inneses of Thursater.

The fourth son of Robert Innes of Thursater was—

Alexander Innes of Borrowstown, who married Margaret Miller, and had a son, James.

James Innes of Borrowstown married his cousin, Margaret, daughter of Robert Innes of Oust, and had a daughter, Elizabeth.

Elizabeth Innes married Henry Budge, son of Robert Budge in Stainland.

These Inneses of Oust, Skaill, and Borrowstown held their several lands, not as proprietors, but under the redeemable tenure of wadsets, although during the subsistence of the wadsets the holders exercised the usual rights of proprietors. A great portion of the lands in the county was held at this period in a similar way, and until comparatively recent times the number of absolute proprietors was limited.

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THE INNESES OF SANDSIDE.

The Inneses of Sandside.

In 1507 Sandside belonged to the family of Innes of Innes. In 1529 it had passed into possession of the first Sinclairs of Dunbeath, probably through the marriage of Elizabeth Innes to Alexander, son of William, second Earl of Caithness, and in 1610 it was acquired from the great-grandson of Alexander Sinclair by Lord Forbes, who was allied to the Inneses. In 1624 it was purchased by Sir Donald M'Kay, and about 1625 it was acquired by William Innes, a Morayshire gentleman, said to have been related to the family of Innes of Innes, and who had come into the county as Chamberlain for Lord Forbes. Isauld formed part of the original estate, but in 1703 a charter of adjudication and novodamus was obtained by Mr. Robert Gordon, wherein Isauld was erected into a barony, and in 1723 that property was acquired by the family of Murkle, of whose estate in Caithness it still forms part.

It is uncertain when WILLIAM INNES, FIRST OF SANDSIDE, died. He appears to have had two sons:—

1. William, supposed to have been the eldest.
2. John, who in 1626 is mentioned as an Officer in

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The Inneses of Sandside.

the troops raised by Sir Donald M'Kay for the King of Denmark, and who is said to have obtained the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

WILLIAM INNES, SECOND OF SANDSIDE.—In 1638 there is a deed which narrates a bond granted in 1634 by William Innes, "Elder and Younger," in which it is stated that both were "stylled Captains." It is difficult to say who these two Captains were. In 1631 and 1637 charters were granted to William Innes of Sandside, and in 1640 a William Innes was succeeded by his eldest son, James, who had a brother, William of Isauld and Borlum. Unless "younger" in the bond of 1634 necessarily leads to the conclusion that Captain William Innes "younger" was the heir-apparent of Sandside, he may have been the same person as William of Isauld and Borlum. If Captain William "younger" was not that person, then the parties to the bond must have been either William Innes, first of Sandside, and his son and successor; or William Innes, the second of Sandside, and a son, William. On the latter supposition, that son must have been the father of James, Robert, and William Innes, and must himself have succeeded to Sandside, as William, second of Sandside, would not have two sons of the same name, Captain William, and William of Isauld and Borlum.

WILLIAM INNES, SECOND OR THIRD OF SANDSIDE, had three sons:—

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1. James.
2. Robert, in Shebster.
3. William of Isauld and Borlum, who died before 1655,[1] and to whom reference is afterwards made.

JAMES INNES OF SANDSIDE was served heir in 1640 to his father, William Innes, whichever of the Williams that may have been. In 1637 he had joined his father in a bond, wherein he is described as his eldest lawful son; and from 1640 down to 1693, a period of fifty-three years, there is a James Innes of Sandside, who is supposed to have been the same person.

About the time of James Innes's succession there is mention of an Alexander Innes, as eldest son of William Innes of Sandside, but of him there is no further account.

James Innes married Elizabeth Johnstone, and had three sons and a daughter:—

1. William, younger of Sandside in 1684.
2. Robert, tutor of Sandside.
3. Arthur, mentioned in 1697.

1. Elizabeth, to whom, in 1673, her father granted a bond of provision, which is witnessed by her uncle, Robert, in Shebster. In 1682 she married William Sinclair, Commissary of Caithness, eldest son of William Sinclair of Hoy (not William, afterwards of Scotscalder), and she had

[1] Bond, 1638.

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The Inneses of Sandside.

two sons: William, writer in Thurso, and Robert, rector of Bulfan in Essex.

It is uncertain at what time James Innes died, and whether his successor, William Innes, was his son or his grandson. In 1684 his son, William, is styled younger of Sandside, but from 1693 down to 1701, when William Innes, then a minor, was laird of Sandside, with his uncle, Robert, as tutor, there is no mention, so far as appears, of the succession of William, the eldest son of James.

WILLIAM INNES OF SANDSIDE, grandson (as is supposed) of James, died without issue in 1747. In 1710, being then Captain Innes, he fought a duel with Alexander Sinclair of Olrig, in which the latter was unfortunately killed, and for some time thereafter he resided abroad. This quarrel, which excited strong feeling in the county, from its fatal result, appears to have arisen under the following circumstances: Captain Innes and a party of gentlemen of the name of Sinclair had met at Thurso, in the lodgings of the laird of Murkle, who was then a youth of seventeen. In the course of the evening Murkle left the room in ill-humour, and went to bed, whereupon it was proposed that the strongest of the party should carry him back, and Innes, following up the joke, carried the young laird from his bed, and placed him, wrapped in blankets, in the chair. This increased his bad humour, and he spat in Innes's

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face, which called forth the remark that "the best of the Sinclairs dared not do that." Olrig fired at this, and instantly challenged Innes, who, however, unwilling to carry the dispute further, represented to Olrig that the contest was unequal, he, Olrig, having a large family, while he himself had none. But Olrig insisting on fighting, they met at a place near Loch Ulgrim on Scotscalder, Olrig armed with a broadsword, and Captain Innes with a rapier. The result was that Olrig was run through the body, and died within a few days. The Inneses of Sandside.

Reverting now to the brothers of James Innes, it appears that William Innes of Isauld and Borlum died before 1655.

He was twice married. By his first wife he had a son:—

William Innes of Isauld, who is mentioned in 1660 and 1668. He married Elizabeth, daughter of David Murray of Clairden, by whom he had a son, James. About 1684 James Innes, then of Sandside, and William, his eldest son, granted to David Murray of Clairden a bond of corroboration of debts and diligences affecting the estate, and in 1693 his son, James Murray, granted a deed of restriction of the adjudications in favour of his nephew, James Innes, son of *Isauld.* Elizabeth Murray, the mother of James, was liferented in Sandside, and was styled "Lady Sandside." How she obtained this liferent is

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The Inneses of Sandside.

not known, as her husband, William Innes of Isauld, does not appear to have been also of Sandside. He may, however, have been in possession as an adjudging creditor.

William Innes of Isauld and Borlum married, secondly, Margaret Cunningham, said by Douglas to have been daughter of William Cunningham of Broomhill, but who was, more probably, the daughter of John Cunningham of Brownhill, who signed a bond of cautionry for her. Of this marriage there were several children, and among these—

Henry, the eldest son.

Jean, who got in 1650 from her half-brother, William of Isauld, a bond for 500 merks.

Henry Innes was apparently a minor at the time of his father's death, and was, as stated in a deed by his mother in 1683, "under great burden of debt." She was liferented in Borlum, and in order to assist her son, she assigned to him certain claims on the estate of Sandside, that being all she could do for him, after maintaining herself and family, "as becomes a person of my quality." Henry Innes married Jean, daughter of John Sinclair, first of Brabster, and had three sons and a daughter: Harry, the eldest son; Alexander, who died in the West Indies, where he is said to have held "a considerable employment;" John, who was a young man at school in 1698, as appears from a letter by him to his uncle, Alexander Sinclair of Brabster, written in that year; and Margaret, who married David Murray of Castlehill.

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HARRY INNES OF BORLUM succeeded to Sandside on the death of Captain William Innes, in 1747. He married Janet Dunbar, widow of John Sinclair of Barrock, and daughter of Sir James Sutherland or Dunbar of Hempriggs, and had two sons :—

1. William, his successor.
2. Alexander, whose daughter, Anne, married John Sutherland of Wester, and had by him a son and six daughters.

WILLIAM INNES OF SANDSIDE, son of Harry Innes, married in 1764 Mary Craddock, who survived him, and resided for many years in Thurso, where, as "Lady Sandside," she was much esteemed and respected. They had two sons and several daughters :—

1. William, his successor.
2. Henry, who died without issue.

Mrs. Macdonald, who had a son and two daughters.

MAJOR WILLIAM INNES OF SANDSIDE was served heir to his father, William, in 1787. He married his cousin, Miss Craddock, and died in 1842 without issue, being succeeded by his nephew, Captain Donald Macdonald.

CAPTAIN DONALD MACDONALD OF SANDSIDE, R.E., was served nearest and lawful heir of provision to his uncle in 1843, under settlements executed in 1816 and 1830, and he died 17th October 1872. He married Lady

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The Inneses of Sandside.

Ramsay Maule, daughter of Lord Panmure, and had five sons and two daughters :—

1. Lieutenant-Colonel Macdonald, who married Miss Lindsay, and died in India leaving one son, an infant.
2. Henry.
3. John.
4. Arthur.
5. Dudley-Ward.

1. Mary.
2. Patricia, who died young.

The estate has been sold to the Duke of Portland, and none of the family of Sandside remain in the county.

This sketch of the family is confessedly imperfect, but the sources of information have been limited.

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THE COGHILLS OF THAT ILK.

The Coghills of that Ilk.

THE proprietors of the small estate of Coghill and Gersay in Watten, now part of the estate of Watten, were, so far as is known, the only county landholders who bore the designation "of that Ilk."

The first, apparently, of this family was Alexander Coghill "of that Ilk," who flourished previous to 1630, in which year he was succeeded by his son, David.

David Coghill got a charter in 1630 from William, Lord Sinclair, and another charter in 1638 from John, Master of Berriedale. In 1650 he was infeft in Scottag, on a charter from the Earl of Caithness.

Barbara Coghill, daughter of "Coghill of that Ilk," who married James Oswald, a Bailie of Wick, may have been the sister or perhaps the daughter of David Coghill.

Thomas Coghill of Coghill and Gersay, the son probably of David, obtained a precept of *clare constat* from the Earl of Caithness.

In 1671 David Coghill of Coghill got a charter from the Earl of Caithness, confirming a disposition to him by David Coghill of Coghill; and it is presumed that he

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The Coghills of that Ilk.

was the son of Thomas, and grandson of the first David.

About the end of the century (1698) the lands were acquired by Alexander Manson of Watten.

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THE SINCLAIRS OF BORLUM, TOFTKEMP, AND THURA.

In the South or "Murkle Aisle" of the parish church of Thurso there is a mural inscription on the north-west wall, in the following terms:—

"This is the burial-place of James Sinclair of Borlum; and here lyes James Sinclair his eldest son and his spouse, Eliz. Innes, who left behind them the Revd. Mr. John Sinclair who was Rector of James interred in Leckpatrick nigh Strabane in Ireland 1665." "Here lyes Isabel Sinclair who was married to the Revd. George Anderson Minister of Halkirk; and Elizabeth Sinclair married to John Farquhr, Bailze of Thurso; and Margaret Sinclair spouse to George Sinclair in Ulgrimbeg."

Isabel Sinclair was the grand-daughter of James Sinclair of Borlum, and it is thought that Elizabeth and Margaret were probably her sisters; that all three were daughters of James Sinclair, the eldest son of Borlum, and that George Sinclair, the husband of Margaret, was a grandson of John Sinclair, first of Assery.

Who James Sinclair of Borlum was is very uncertain. He may have been a grandson of William Sinclair of

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The Sinclairs of Borlum, Toftkemp, and Thura.

Dunbeath, to whom Brubster, Brims, Toftkemp, and Thura belonged: Borlum's name occurs in common with all these places in the county records from 1624 to 1646; or he may have been of the family of Murkle, and if so, he may have been a brother of John Sinclair, first of Assery, and a son of James Sinclair, first of Murkle.

In M'Kay's history it is mentioned that James Sinclair of Borlum was killed (time not stated) by one Neil M'Kay, for the share he had in the slaughter of the latter's father in an affray in Thurso, about 1648, with which Murkle was concerned. Then, Murkle was cautioner for him and for his own son, John Sinclair of Assery, in 1637; and frequent marriages took place between the immediate descendants of Sinclair of Borlum and Sinclair of Assery. Thus, Borlum's son, Major William Sinclair, married Assery's grand-daughter, Margaret Doull; Borlum's grand-daughter, Jean Sinclair, married Assery's great-grandson, Alexander Sinclair; and Borlum's grandson, Richard of Thura, married Elizabeth, daughter of George Sinclair of Assery. It may be noticed also that James Sinclair of Murkle is found as cautioner for John Sinclair of Assery, his son, and James of Borlum, and that John Sinclair, fourth of Sybster, the son of Assery, is cautioner in 1658 in the marriage-contract of Borlum's daughter, Jean.

On the other hand, if James Sinclair was of the Dunbeath family, he was probably the son of George Sinclair of Downreay, the youngest son of William Sinclair.

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The Sinclairs of Borlum, Toftkemp, and Thura.

It is certain, at all events, that there were transactions between James Sinclair and the descendants of William Sinclair in relation to lands which belonged to the family. In particular, there is mention of a renunciation of rights held by Borlum over Spittal, granted by him, in 1649, to John Sinclair of Brims, grandson of Dunbeath. This deed, if extant, would perhaps throw light on his history.[1]

A few years ago a family of Sinclairs of Holyhill, in Ireland (of whom notice will be found in "Burke"), claiming to be descended from a "Sir James Sinclair of Caithness," made inquiries in regard to their Caithness ancestry. There is no doubt that this family is descended from a clergyman named James Sinclair, rector of Strathbane, a grandson of James Sinclair of Borlum, while the tradition among them that their ancestor was a Sir James Sinclair strengthens the supposition that Borlum was of the Murkle family. John Sinclair of Freswick writes in 1782 from Knaresboro': "At York ther'se a very respectable sensible man, Councillor Robert Sinclair of the Holyhill family in Ireland. He has a property there of £400 a year; is marry't here to a lady of good family, by whom he will get £10,000. The late Mr. Pope of Reay knew to what family in Caithness they were connected. He wants to know his descent, when they emigrate, or when came of the Caithness family."

[1] Reference is made to notes on Sinclairs of Dunbeath and Stemster as to younger branches of Dunbeath family. Mr. Alexander Sinclair was of opinion that there was a connection between the Sinclairs of Borlum and Wester-Brims, and the Sinclairs of Brims descended from the Sinclairs of Dunbeath.

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The Sinclairs of Borlum, Toftkemp, and Thura.

In 1853 a letter was received by the late Sir John Sinclair (Barrock) from a gentleman in Ireland to the following effect: "In tracing the pedigree of the Lowry family of the County Tyrone in this country, I find that, early in the 18th century, Robert Lowry, grandfather of the first Lord Belmore, married Miss Sinclair, daughter of the Rev. James Sinclair of Holyhill, County Down, and grand-daughter of Sir James Sinclair of Caithness. Could you assist me in identifying this Sir James, as I am induced, as a matter of family history, to trace this if possible?" This no doubt has reference to the family of the Rev. James Sinclair.

JAMES SINCLAIR OF BORLUM had four sons, James, Alexander, William, and Robert, and a daughter, Jean.

1. James Sinclair of Wester-Brims married Elspeth or Elizabeth Innes, probably of the Inneses of Thursater and Wester-Brims, and died before 1659, leaving a son, John, and several daughters. The existence and history of John Sinclair, his son, are clearly shown by the inscription (given above) in Thurso Old Kirk, and by the statements in a contract, dated 23d September 1659 (Sheriff-Court Records, 1665), between Elizabeth Innes, his mother, and his uncle, Alexander Sinclair of Telstane. James Sinclair of Thura (Borlum), as principal, and his son, James of Wester-Brims, as cautioner, had come under certain obligations which Elspeth Innes, as exe-

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cutrix of her husband, had to pay. She led an adjudication of the lands of Thura and Toftkemp, then possessed by Major William Sinclair, for 1600 merks, and she assigned the decreet to Alexander Sinclair of Telstane and his wife, Isabel Cunningham; he becoming bound to lead an adjudication against John, son of James of Wester-Brims, as heir of line to his grandfather, James of Thura and Borlum. This assignation is drawn by John Cunningham, advocate, no doubt the brother of Isabel Cunningham, and afterwards Sir John of Caprington.—(*Vide* Cunninghams). Further, in a deed executed by Elizabeth Innes, as relict of James Sinclair of Wester-Brims, in connection with the sale of Brims, in 1660, to John Sinclair of Tannoch, mention is made of her son, Mr. John Sinclair, minister of Leckpatrick, in Ireland. The Sinclairs of Borlum, Toftkemp, and Thura.

James Sinclair had certainly three daughters: Isabell, who married the Reverend George Anderson, minister of Halkirk, as mentioned in the inscription above quoted; Jean, who married Alexander Sinclair, notary-public in Thurso; and a third daughter, who married Alexander Abernethy, in Swordale, and thereafter Alexander Mulliken, in Papigo, chamberlain to the Earl of Caithness.

2. Captain Alexander Sinclair, second son of James

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The Sinclairs of Borlum, Toftkemp, and Thura.

Sinclair of Borlum and Thura, was first of Bowertower, and afterwards of Telstane (now Hempriggs), of which he held a wadset from the Earl of Caithness. He married Isabel, the daughter—according to Douglas—of William Cunningham of Broomhill, but more probably of John Cunningham of Brownhill. Captain Sinclair had two sons, John (1683) and James, and two daughters, Katharine, "Lady Dun," wife of William Sinclair of Dun, and thereafter of Alexander Sutherland of Ausdale, by whom she had a daughter, Isabella; his second daughter married one John Fullerton.

In 1666 there is on record an inhibition at the instance of John, Alexander, George, Elizabeth, and Margaret Sinclair, as "lawful heirs" of Alexander Sinclair of Telstane. It is not explained who these persons were, or what was their relationship to Alexander Sinclair.

3. Major William Sinclair of Thura, third son of James of Borlum, got a disposition of the estate from his father in 1651. He served in the German wars, and was in the fight at Aultimarloch in 1680, on the side of the Sinclairs. He married Margaret, daughter of John Doull of Thuster, Wick, and grand-daughter of John Sinclair, first of Assery. He had three sons and a daughter: (1) John, afterwards of Thura, who disponed the

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estate in 1702 to his brother, Richard; (2) Richard of Thura, who married Elizabeth, daughter of George Sinclair of Assery, and had a son, Captain John Sinclair, who sold the lands in 1754 to Daniel Taylor; (3) James, of whom there is no account; and (1) Jean.

4. Robert Sinclair, fourth son of James of Borlum, had a daughter, Elizabeth, who married Donald Henderson in Sibster, afterwards in Achalibster. —*Vide* Hendersons of Westerdale.

1. Jean, the daughter of James Sinclair of Borlum, married, in 1658, Alexander Steill, who is designed as "servitor to the Earl of Caithness." Her brothers, Captain Alexander and Major William, were parties to the contract of marriage, and her tocher was 1000 merks.

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THE BRUCES OF STANSTILL.

The Bruces of Stanstill.

THE Bruces, of whom the principal family was Bruce of Stanstill, are of old standing in the county. It is believed that ancient charters connected with this family are still extant in the charter-chest of Mr. Wemyss of Southdun; but the information at hand does not extend beyond 1559. At that period, Stanstill, which had formed part of the bishopric, was feued out with other lands to John, Earl of Sutherland. In the charter by the Bishop, Stanstill is mentioned as then held in feu by "William Davidson." As we find, in 1562, "David Saul of Stanstill," and, in 1567, "David Bruce of Stanstill," and David having been a family name, it is probable that "William Davidson" was *William David's-son*, that is, William Saul or Bruce, son of David Saul or Bruce. Saul seems to have been the patronymic or clan name of the Bruces, for, in 1630, David Bruce, then of Stanstill, bequeathed "two hundred merks of his readiest rents to be dedicat and given to the building of ane Ile and burying place in the kirk yard of Bower in the *Clan-Saul* Hillock, where he has ordainit to bury his bodie."

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The Bruces of Stanstill.

I. DAVID BRUCE, who was probably the David Saul of 1562, obtained a charter of Stanstill and part of Kirk in 1567; and in 1577 he received sasine on Stanstill, and in the hereditary office of Keeper of the Loch of Alterwall and fresh-water fishings thereof, on a charter from Alexander, Earl of Sutherland, the son of Earl John. David Bruce had two sons:—

1. William, his successor.
2. John, mentioned in 1601.

II. WILLIAM BRUCE OF STANSTILL AND HASTIGROW obtained a tack of teinds in 1573; and in 1582 he got a precept as heir to his father. He died in 1622. He was twice married; first to Isabella, daughter of Patrick Mowat of Buquhollie. She died in 1601, as appears from a tombstone to her memory, which had been originally placed in the parish church of Canisbay, and which is still extant in the churchyard there. By her William Bruce had three sons and two daughters:—

1. David, his successor.
2. William, mentioned in 1617.
3. Patrick, who had a son named Magnus, and other children—Magnus being the eldest.

1. Christian, who married Gavin Bruce, portioner of Lyth.
2. Isabella.

William Bruce married, secondly, Janet Murray, widow of David Sinclair, apparent of Forss, and daughter

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The Bruces of Stanstill.

of Murray of Pulrossie, Sutherlandshire. She survived her husband; and much litigation took place between her and her relations (the Murrays of Pulrossie and Spanziedale) and her stepson, David Bruce, with the result, as stated in a letter in 1630, from David Bruce, minister of Olrig (a near connection of the Stanstill family), to Magnus Mowat of Buquhollie, that "the Ladye craftily wrought her point, to the ruin of *the House*."

By Janet Murray, William Bruce had a daughter, Janet, who married James Sinclair of Reaster, afterwards of Rattar, son of Sir John Sinclair, first of Greenland and Rattar. By her eldest son, William, the Rattar line was carried on.

III. DAVID BRUCE OF STANSTILL succeeded his father, William, and married Helen, daughter of George Ogilvie of Carnoustie, and sister of Sir George Ogilvie. In reference to the misfortunes which befell the family of Stanstill in the time of David Bruce, minister of Olrig, he writes that, "the want of his tocher gude fra Carnoustie brought a discord betwixt his father and him," of which, he adds, his stepmother took advantage to his prejudice.

David Bruce left the estate much involved in debt, and the minister of Olrig, the fast friend of the family, urged Buquhollie, the uncle of Stanstill, "to lat all friends put to their shoulders for the standing of the House that is so unjustly pursuit," he himself having taken charge of the young heir, whom he describes as a

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"pretty quick bairn of nine years of age." David Bruce died in 1630, leaving a son and four daughters:— The Bruces of Stanstill.

1. William, his heir.
1. Janet.
2. Jean.
3. Elizabeth.
4. Margaret.

By his will he "*left in Legacie*" his four daughters as follows: Janet, to Lady Hatton, her mother's sister; Jean, to his cousin-german, Christian Mowat, wife of Sir John Sinclair of Dunbeath; Elizabeth, to her uncle, the laird of Birness; and Margaret, to her aunt, Christian, wife of Gavin Bruce of Lyth.

IV. WILLIAM BRUCE OF STANSTILL appears to have married a daughter of Sir John Sinclair of Dunbeath, for in a bond to Sir John, in 1640, he mentions the latter as his father-in-law. If he had issue, there is no account of them. David Bruce of Lyth, the minister of Olrig, who had taken charge of William when a minor, at his death, in 1633, committed his ward to the care of his brother and heir, William, and a great deal of litigation subsequently took place between them.

The estate was apparently hopelessly sunk in debt, and Sir John Sinclair had acquired apprisings over it, amounting to 20,000 merks. In 1649, William Bruce, portioner of Lyth, got right to these apprisings from Sir John, subject to the condition that Patrick, the uncle of

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The Bruces of Stanstill.

William Bruce of Stanstill, or Magnus, Patrick's eldest son, should be entitled to redeem the lands within a certain time. This makes it probable that, at the period of this transaction, William Bruce was dead, and had left no issue. The estate was not redeemed, and consequently, in 1653, Robert Bruce, eldest son of William Bruce of Lyth, came into possession of Stanstill. The Lyth Bruces were no doubt connected with the Stanstill family, as were the Bruces of Hastigrow and Ham; but the particulars of the relationship have not been traced.

V. Robert Bruce of Stanstill, the son of William Bruce, portioner of Lyth, and nephew of David Bruce, minister of Olrig, married Elizabeth or Elspeth, daughter of James Sinclair of Rattar, and had a son, William.

VI. William Bruce of Stanstill is described, in 1667, as "Younger of Stanstill," and as portioner of Lyth. In 1666 he married Margaret, daughter of David Sinclair of Southdun.[1] His further history is unknown, but the title-deeds of the estate will no doubt show when Stanstill passed from the Bruce family, as it long ago did. There is some notice of a second son, George.

[1] Contract of Marriage.

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THE BRUCES OF HAM.

The Bruces of Ham.

WALTER BRUCE OF HAM, third son of Saul Bruce of Lyth, obtained, in 1636, from James Sinclair of Rattar, a wadset of Ham and Wester; and in 1647 he got a wadset of Brough from William Sinclair of Rattar. In 1663 the Earl of Caithness gave him a charter of these lands, confirming to him and his heirs "an irredeemable bond of alienation."

Walter Bruce married three times; first, Janet, eldest daughter of James Sinclair of Rattar;[1] secondly, Barbara, daughter of William Smithe, minister of Dunnet from 1614 to 1650;[2] and, thirdly, Elizabeth, daughter of Alexander Sinclair of Latheron, and sister to the first Sinclairs of Brabster and Barrock. The last-named survived her husband and married George Sinclair of Olrig.

By his first marriage Walter Bruce had two sons and a daughter:—

1. John, his successor.
2. David, afterwards styled of Ham.

[1] Contract of Marriage, 20th December 1642.
[2] Contract of Marriage, 1657.

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The Bruces of Ham.

1. Janet.

By his second marriage he had two sons and a daughter :—

1. Walter.
2. William.
1. Rose or Rosie, who married Andrew Gunn, and who seems to have been heiress to Walter and William.

By his third marriage he had a daughter :—

Elizabeth, who married William Calder of Lynegar.

John Bruce of Ham married Anne, daughter of John Cunningham of Brownhill, and had two daughters :—

1. Janet.
2. Elizabeth.

These ladies are both mentioned in 1694 as daughters of the deceased John Bruce of Ham.

John Bruce appears to have been succeeded by his brother, David, as "heir-male" of him and his father, Walter; while at the same time his daughter, Janet, is designed as Janet Bruce of Ham.

Janet Bruce married Æneas or Angus Sutherland, merchant in Thurso, and had a son, William.

In 1738 James Murray of Clairden adjudged from William Sutherland, son of Janet Bruce, his rights to Ham, as representing his mother, his grandfather, John, and his great-grandfather, Walter. From James Murray the lands of Ham, etc., came into the possession of Sinclair of Barrock, and they finally reverted to the Rattar family.

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David Bruce of Ham, the "heir-maill" of his brother, John, and his father, Walter, is mentioned in 1694 as "now of Ham," but there is no further notice of him, and it would seem as if the possession had remained in the family of John Bruce until the date of Clairden's adjudication in 1738. The Bruces of Ham.

John Bruce's widow, Anne Cunningham, was life-rented in Ham, and married William Sutherland, who was thereafter styled of Ham. He is not to be confounded with her grandson, William Sutherland, the son of her daughter, Janet.

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THE BRUCES OF LYTH.

The Bruces of Lyth.

In 1524 Lyth belonged to the "Mansons." In that year Kenneth, Donald, and William Manson got a charter of the lands in equal shares from Andrew, Bishop of Caithness, and, in 1532, a commission was directed by the Pope for confirming the grant.

Between 1583 and 1610, Lyth was acquired by the Bruces, William Bruce of Stanstill having, in 1583, obtained a charter from the Bishop of one-third,—while, in 1601, another one-third was held by Saul Bruce, and the remaining one-third, in 1610, by Gavin Bruce.

Saul and Gavin Bruce, portioners of Lyth, were probably brothers, and in a removing against them in 1610, at the instance of William Bruce of Stanstill (Gavin Bruce's father-in-law), from the lands of Bilster, they are designed by the *alias* of "Donald Williamsons." Their connection with the Stanstill branch is not known further than Gavin's alliance by marriage.

In 1592 there was a charter to William Bruce, eldest son of Donald Williamson or Bruce. In 1681 the Bishop granted a charter to —— Bruce, heir of Gavin Bruce, son and heir of Donald. In 1683 there was a special

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retour and also a precept of *clare constat* to James Bruce, grandson of Gavin. Thus there are :— The Bruces of Lyth.

1. Donald Bruce Williamson.
2. William Bruce, eldest son of Donald, in 1592.
3. Gavin Bruce, who married Christian, daughter of William Bruce, second of Stanstill.
4. —— Bruce, Gavin's son.
5. James Bruce, grandson of Gavin. In 1682 he disponed his third of Lyth to George Sinclair of Barrock.

I. Saul Bruce married one of the Manson family, to whom, in 1524, Lyth, then divided into three portions, belonged. He had three sons and a daughter :—

1. David, minister of Olrig, or more probably of Halkirk. In 1591 Saul Bruce was minister of Reay, and between 1597 and 1599 he was translated to Olrig. David Bruce is not in the list of ministers of Olrig in "Fasti Eccles. Scot."
2. William.
3. Walter of Ham.
1. Marjorie, who married Sinclair of Dun.

II. David Bruce, portioner of Lyth, said to have been minister of Olrig and Skinnet, married Janet Sinclair, the widow of John Smart, who was minister of Wick in 1638, and who died minister of Dunnet, in 1667.

The great interest taken by David Bruce in the affairs

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The Bruces of Lyth.

of the Stanstill family has been already noticed. He died in 1633, and, having no family, he left his property of Lyth to his brother, William, who is designed of Milburn; his moveables to his brother, Walter Bruce of Ham; a legacy to his sister, Marjorie; and another legacy to her "and William Sinclair's bairns." William Sinclair of Dun is mentioned by Father Hay as having married Marjorie, daughter of Saul Bruce of Leith (Lyth). She was, no doubt, David Bruce's sister.

III. WILLIAM BRUCE, portioner of Lyth, succeeded his brother, David, and had three sons:—

1. Robert.
2. George.
3. William of Myreland; and also of Kirk and Myrelandhorn, which he apprised from James Sinclair, and assigned to his grandson, George, together with an apprising of Lyth.

IV. ROBERT BRUCE, eldest son of William, and portioner of Lyth in 1653, came into possession of Stanstill. For further particulars regarding him reference is made to the "Notes" on the Stanstill family.

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THE BRUCES OF HASTIGROW AND SEATER.

THE lands of Hastigrow belonged, in 1582, to William Bruce, then of Stanstill, and they must have belonged also to his father, David, first of Stanstill, for William obtained a precept as heir to his father.

In 1604, Hastigrow was in possession of John Bruce,[1] who probably was John, the brother of William. John had a son, David.

DAVID BRUCE OF HASTIGROW AND SEATER was served heir to his father in 1607,[2] and had a son, Magnus.

MAGNUS BRUCE OF HASTIGROW AND SEATER was served heir to his father,[3] and had two sons :—

1. John of Hastigrow, who married Katharine Dunnet.
2. William of Seater.

In 1686 the brothers made a division of their father's property. John got Hastigrow, to which he

[1] Charter by E. of C., 9th June 1604.
[2] Precept, 11th August 1607.
[3] Sasine on Disposition by his father, 1657.

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The Bruces of Hastigrow and Seater.

also had a disposition from his father and grandfather in 1657; and Seater fell to William. Hastigrow was sold to George Sinclair of Barrock in 1687. Both it and Seater now belong to the Southdun estate.

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THE CAMPBELLS AND M'IVERS OR IVERACHS.

FROM "An Account of the Clan Iver," or, as they are named by Gordon, The Seil- Wick- Iver in Caithness, by Principal Campbell of Aberdeen,—printed for private circulation in 1868, and reprinted in 1873,—it appears that some at least of the Caithness Campbells, viz. the M'Ivers Buey (*Buidhe*, Yellow-haired), latterly Campbells of Quoycrook, in Caithness, and Duchernan, in Argyle, are descended from Kenneth Buey M'Iver, who emigrated from Argyle to Caithness between 1575 and 1585, accompanied by his brother, Farquhar, and a band of the clan. In 1594 Farquhar was slain in a fight near Harpsdale. Kenneth was alive in 1616, and had obtained a charter of Quarrycrook in Halkirk.

Kenneth M'Iver is said to have had two sons:—William M'Iver or William Kennetson, who was chief of the clan, and John. The latter and his uncle, Farquhar, are supposed to have been the progenitors of many of the Caithness M'Ivers and Iverachs, some of whom assumed the name of Campbell.

About 1626 William Buey was dispossessed by Lord

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The Campbells and M'Ivers or Iverachs.

Berriedale of such lands as were held from him, and he returned to Argyle. Having interested Lord Lorn in his fortunes, he assumed the name of Campbell, and, coming back into Caithness with a new body of his clansmen, he carried on a feud with Lord Berriedale for several years. At length he was taken prisoner, along with one of his sons, and both were put to death.

In Principal Campbell's account of the Caithness M'Ivers, they are said to have occupied most of the lands in the parishes of Halkirk and Reay, and in the southern extremity of the parish of Thurso, of which the Earl Marischal and Lord Oliphant were superiors; and it is stated that they can be traced in possession of Quoycrook, part of Braal, Scotscalder, and North Calder, Lieurary, Brubster, Soure or Shurery, Braalbin, Gerston, Comlie-foot, Housell, Drakress, Olganymore, Sibmister (Sibster), and Sordale. But what portion of these lands, with the exception of Quoycrook, they held by a heritable title, is said not to have been ascertained.

William Buey M'Iver had several sons, but there is uncertainty as to their names. By one of them, Donald, he had three grandsons:—

1. Patrick Buey Campbell of Quoycrook. This was a family possession, recovered by him in 1657, and of which he obtained a new charter in 1674. It is the same place to which, under the name of Quarrycrook, Kenneth M'Iver had acquired a charter.

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2. Farquhar Campbell or M'Iver, in Rumsdale. He had a son, William.
3. Alexander Campbell of Comlie-foot, near Halkirk. He had a wadset of these lands, dated 6th March 1682. He married Agnes Charleson, and had at least two sons and a daughter: Donald Campbell, in Stainland and Aimster, chamberlain to Lord Breadalbane; John Campbell in Comliefoot; and Isabel, who married, in 1700, William Davidson, in Buckies. The following inscription is to be seen on a gravestone in the kirkyard of Halkirk:—"Here lyes Alexander Campbell of Comilfiet, who died 10 Nov. 1693." An adjoining stone marks the grave of his brother, Farquhar.

Patrick Buey Campbell married Helen Bayne, of the Baynes of Bylbster, or of Clyth, and had an only son, Donald, and several daughters, of whom one married Murdoch Campbell, in Brubster, and another, named Anna, married her cousin-german, William, tacksman of Rumsdale, in 1697, son of Farquhar Campbell or M'Iver.

In 1705, Helen Bayne, then relict of Patrick Buey Campbell, executed a renunciation of part of Quoycrook in favour of her nephew, Donald, the son of Alexander Campbell of Comliefoot; and in the same year she disponed her liferent in certain other lands to her son-in-law, Murdoch Campbell, in Brubster.

From Donald Buey Campbell of Quoycrook, the son

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The Campbells and M'Ivers or Iverachs.

of Patrick, are descended the Campbells of Duchernan, in Argyle.—*Vide* Principal Campbell's "Account."

The Iverachs of Caithness are sub-cadets of the M'Ivers Buey, and during last century they, for several generations, occupied lands at Braehour, Clayock, and Lieurary. From William Iverach, in Sordale, the representative of this branch in the earlier part of last century, are descended Messrs. Peter Iverach in Weydale, James Iverach in Harpsdale, and William Iverach of Wideford, in Orkney.

The Campbells, who were for the first half of last century Heritable Commissary and Sheriff Clerks of Caithness, are also supposed to have been sub-cadets of the Buey Campbells, and are believed to be descended from the family of Quoycrook, their immediate ancestor, Donald Campbell, younger, merchant in Thurso, having been, it is thought, a younger son of William Buey M'Iver, or of John, his brother. Donald Campbell had three sons:—

1. James, merchant in Thurso, who died unmarried.
2. William, Sheriff-Clerk, of whom afterwards.
3. John Campbell of Castlehill, which he purchased from Lord Breadalbane in 1711. He was also Commissary and Sheriff Clerk. He married Anne, daughter of William Sinclair of Rattar, and widow of Robert Sinclair of Durran. By her he had a son, Colin, who died without issue; and two daughters,—Isabel, who married James

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Campbell of *Balbreck*, or perhaps *Barbreck*, in Argyle; and Janet, who married James Budge of Toftingall, and had no issue.

On the death of their brother, Colin, the two sisters succeeded to Castlehill, and sold it to David Murray.

On or near the site of the present House of Castlehill stood the Old Castle of Stangergill, the original name of the property, and after the erection of the new House the estate got the name of Castlehill.

William Campbell (No. 2) was twice married; first, to Elizabeth, daughter of James Murray of Pennyland, by whom he had a son, Donald.

By his second wife, Helen Mudy or Helen Mowat, he had six sons:—

1. James, Sheriff-Clerk, and of Lochend, which he purchased, in 1749, from James Sutherland of Swinzie, for 20,000 merks, the rental being £50. He was served heir to his father, and married, first, Mary, daughter of John Sinclair of Forss; and, secondly, Isabella, daughter of the Reverend James Oswald, episcopal minister of Watten. He died in 1766, leaving two sons,—William and Oswald, who both died unmarried,—the latter in 1776; and a daughter, Elizabeth, also supposed to have died unmarried. William and Elizabeth are mentioned in Bishop Forbes's diary in 1762.
2. William, immediate younger brother of James, was secretary to Admiral Vernon, and by his wife,

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Philadelphia, he had a son, Captain Alexander Campbell, R.N. Captain Campbell had a son, Alexander, who was served heir to his grand-uncle, James of Lochend, in 1777, and who sold Lochend, in 1778, to William Sinclair of Freswick, for £2015. Alexander died before 1787, leaving a widow, named Susannah Poole, who was his executrix.

3. John.
4. Patrick. } These three died without issue.
5. Colin.

6. Hugo Campbell, brother-german of James and William, was joint Sheriff-Clerk with James. He married Jean, daughter of John Sinclair of Forss, and had two sons,—John, and Rose, a merchant, who died in Spain unmarried; and two daughters,—Isabella, who died unmarried, and Eliza, who married, first, Alexander Sutherland, merchant in London, son of Bailie George Sutherland, Wick, and, secondly, John Grant, illegitimate son of Mr. John Grant of Latheron-wheel, which estate he occupied under a wadset. Mr. Grant entered the army, and obtained the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the Portuguese service. He had no issue by his marriage to Miss Campbell.

From an account of "Rossend Castle," near Burnt-island, which, together with some adjacent land, was

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purchased by the Town Council of that place, in January 1873, for £7500, it appears to have been a place of much historical interest. In 1715 the Castle was occupied by the Earl of Mar and his troops, and about half a century later (1765) it was in the possession of "Murdoch Campbell of the Caithness Campbells." There is no doubt this was Murdoch Campbell, sometime writer and merchant in Thurso.

In 1750 Mr. Campbell purchased a portion of a tenement in Thurso called Bruce's Tenement, and in the disposition he is designed "writer in Thurso." In 1752 the remainder of Bruce's tenement was purchased by Murdoch Campbell, "merchant in Thurso." The identity of the "writer" and the "merchant" is undoubted, for, in the disposition in 1752, reference is made to Mr. Campbell's previous purchase in 1750; and in 1776, in a disposition by him of the whole tenement to Alexander Duncan, merchant in Thurso, which was signed at Burntisland, he is designed "Murdoch Campbell of Rossend." At what period Mr. Campbell left Thurso has not been ascertained.

In the account of Rossend, Mr. Campbell is stated to have married *Margaret*, daughter of John Taylor of Pitcairlie, and the heiress of Carbiston; but in the disposition in 1750, his wife, to whom the tenement then purchased was conveyed in liferent, is named *Rachel* Taylor. He seems to have had an only child, a daughter, who, in 1790, married Robert Beatson of Kilrie, and of

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The Campbells and M'Ivers or Iverachs.

the Royal Engineers; and she inherited Rossend. These Taylors and Beatsons did not belong to Caithness. Robert Beatson succeeded to Rossend through his marriage to Mr. Campbell's only daughter.

It has been supposed that Murdoch Campbell, writer, was a grandson of Murdoch in Brubster, the son-in-law, and perhaps the nephew (as supposed), of Patrick Buey Campbell of Quarrycrook, and son of William Campbell, called William Beag, or Dorcry, afterwards in Brubster, who was not improbably a brother, and certainly a near relative of Patrick Buey Campbell of Quarrycrook, Farquhar (M'Iver) in Rumsdale, and Alexander Campbell of Comliefoot. It is certain that Murdoch Campbell in Brubster had at least one son, for, as appears from a contract of marriage in July 1721, William Campbell, his son, married Janet, daughter of Sir James Sinclair of Dunbeath. She is supposed to have been an illegitimate daughter, as Sir James did not marry earlier than 1705, and there is no mention of this daughter otherwise. William Campbell was at the time of his marriage in Milton of Dunbeath, and in 1753 he was in Wester-Latheron. In 1733 he got a wadset from Sir James over Milbuy of Houstry, to himself and his wife, and their eldest son, James, afterwards in Dysart; and it may be that Murdoch Campbell of Rossend was another of his sons. When a young man, Murdoch appears to have been a clerk in the office of James and Hugo Campbell, the supposed connections of his family.

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THE HENDERSONS OF STEMSTER.

The Hendersons of Stemster.

THE traditional account of the Caithness Hendersons is that they are descended from Henry Gunn, a younger son of George Gunn, who was chief of the clan in the fifteenth century. After the slaughter of their chief and several of his sons in a combat with the Keiths, a family difference led to Henry separating himself from his surviving brothers, and settling in the lowlands of Caithness. In 1594 we find mention of a champion of the clan Gunn, named Donald Mac-William *Mac-Hendric*, who may have had something to say in the matter of the Henderson patronymic; but the popular account is, as has been said, that they are the descendants of Henry Gunn.

I. DONALD HENDERSON, who was in Stemster in 1680, had two sons :—

1. David, who is said to have settled in Zetland.
2. Alexander.

II. In the year 1700 ALEXANDER HENDERSON got a general disposition of moveables from his father (who appears to have been in easy circumstances), and in 1706 he resided in Lochside. He married Anna or Agnes

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The Hendersons of Stemster.

Murray, sister-german of Ranald Murray, in Bowertower. In 1726 he was tacksman of Stemster, and in 1736 he became tenant of Gerston, where he resided till his death in 1743.

He had an only son and four, if not five, daughters:—

1. David.
1. Christian, who married, in 1726, Francis Swanson, son of William Swanson in Stemster, who became tenant of Gerston in 1751 or 1752, and whose descendants were the tenants till 1872.
2. Margaret, who married Adam Henderson, son of Benjamin Henderson in Achalibster, from whom are descended the family of Hendersons, sometime in Clyth.
3. Anne, who married Donald Henderson, second laird of Westerdale.
4. Barbara, the youngest daughter, who married, in 1751, Alexander Sinclair, the last laird of Dun, being his second wife. She had no issue.
5. There seems to have been in 1754 another daughter named Elizabeth, who was apparently then unmarried.

III. DAVID HENDERSON occupied the farm of Gerston for some time after 1748, and in 1750 he purchased Stemster from Sir Benjamin Sinclair for 21,500 merks. He married Cecilia, daughter of William Honyman of Græmsay, another of whose daughters was married to

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Taylor of Thura, and a third daughter to the Reverend Mr. Nicolson of Shebster. The Hendersons of Stemster.

The Honymans claim to be descended, in the female line, from Robert Stewart, first Earl of Orkney, natural son of James v., whose grand-daughter, Mary, was married to Stewart of Græmsay. Their only daughter and heiress, Mary, married Andrew Honyman, who was Bishop of Orkney from 1664 to 1676; and the Bishop was grandfather of William Honyman of Græmsay. Bishop Honyman was a son of David Honyman of Pitcairchney, and he had a brother, George, who was minister of Stromness[1] in 1672. The Bishop "did many good and charitable deeds," including the slating and repairing of the church of Sandwick, and died in 1676.

David Henderson of Stemster had four sons and three daughters:—

1. William.
2. Alexander, his successor.
3. Patrick, who died in Demerara.
4. John, who died in Jamaica.

1. Mary, who married the Reverend Robert Gunn, minister of Latheron.
2. Anne, who married, in 1779, the Reverend William Gunn, minister of Golspie from 1776 to 1785, when he died. She lived until 1841.
3. Margaret, who died unmarried, in 1864, aged ninety-seven.

[1] "Fasti Eccles. Scot."

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The Hendersons of Stemster.

IV. ALEXANDER HENDERSON OF STEMSTER was in early life for a short time in the Royal Navy. He married Margaret, daughter of William Duthie of Arduthie, and he had five sons and four daughters :—

1. David, his successor, retired from the army as captain in 1816.
2. Alexander Davidson, who was in the Indian Army, and was drowned in the Persian Gulf.
3. William Honyman, C.B., who was a post-captain in the Royal Navy, and died in November 1855. He married Elizabeth, widow of Lord James Townshend, K.C.H. He had no issue.
4. James, of Bilbster and Rosebank, Wick, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Kenneth M'Leay of Newmore, and has issue, two sons and four daughters, and who died 1879, aged eighty-one.
5. Patrick, who was major in the Indian Army, and died in 1873 unmarried.

1. Margaret, who died in 1879 unmarried.
2. Mary, who married Charles Chalmers of Monkshill, Esq., advocate, Aberdeen, and had issue.
3. Johanna, died 1880, unmarried.
4. Cecilia.

V. DAVID HENDERSON OF STEMSTER married Marjory, eldest daughter of Colonel Benjamin Williamson of Banniskirk. He died in 1859, and had three sons and four daughters. He was succeeded by his eldest son,

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Alexander Henderson, now of Stemster, who married Susan, daughter of Allan M'Farlane, Esq., and his wife, Margaret, daughter of John Horne, Esq. of Stirkoke, and has issue.[1] The Hendersons of Stemster.

[1] The family of Stemster is connected through Mrs. Marjory Williamson with the families of Sutherlands of Langwell and Forse and Sinclairs of Southdun and Ulbster.

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THE HENDERSONS OF ACHALIBSTER AND WESTERDALE.

The Hendersons of Achalibster and Westerdale.

FROM the middle of the seventeenth century to the early part of the eighteenth, we find various Hendersons, —such as Hendersons, portioners of Brabsterdorran from 1642 to 1695; Hendersons in Wester Nottingham, and in Rumster and Rangag, on the estate of Forse, and wadsetters of Gersay in Watten from 1655 to 1738, supposed to be descended from the Hendersons of Brabsterdorran; Hendersons in Stemster, from 1680 downwards; and Hendersons in Sibster, afterwards in Achalibster and Westerdale, from 1660; and it is probable that they were all more or less related, although it may now be difficult to trace a common ancestry.

From Donald Henderson, who, when in Sibster, married Elizabeth Sinclair, daughter of Robert, fourth son of James Sinclair of Borlum and Thura, are descended the Hendersons of Achalibster and Westerdale. Donald Henderson was in Achalibster in 1660, and then got from the Earl of Caithness a wadset for a thousand merks of the twopenny-halfpenny lands of Westerdale,

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the halfpenny lands of Croft of Dale and Southside of Burn of Ulgrimbeg. The Hendersons of Achalibster and Westerdale.

He had two sons and a daughter :—

1. Robert.
2. David, first of Westerdale.

1. Janet, who is mentioned as "daughter of Donald Henderson in Achalibster and Elizabeth Sinclair." She married Adam Sutherland in Langwell, second son of William Sutherland of Langwell.

I. Robert Henderson possessed in 1699 the two-penny lands of Westerdale, and in 1703 he is named as portioner of Dale. He married Anna Dunbar, an illegitimate daughter of Sir William Dunbar of Hempriggs, who, in 1701, granted to him and his wife and their first and second sons, William and Benjamin, a wadset of the twopence-halfpenny lands of Tormsdale. In 1718 Sir William Dunbar, as Justiciary Depute and Sheriff of Caithness, appointed him Procurator-Fiscal of the county. In so far as appears, his children were :—

1. William in Achaldall, now called wadset lands of Westerdale, and in Tormsdale in 1725 and 1726, which he possessed as heir to his father in the wadset. He gave a lease of Tormsdale to his brother, Benjamin.
2. Benjamin.

1. Anna.

Benjamin Henderson possessed Achalibster, and

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The Hendersons of Achalibster and Westerdale.

married in 1716 his cousin-german, Esther, daughter of Adam Sutherland in Langwell, and grand-daughter of William Sutherland of Langwell. He died before 1739, leaving a son, Adam.

Lieutenant Adam Henderson in Achaldall or wadset lands, was in 1749 tacksman of Achinarras. In 1739 he married Margaret, daughter of Alexander Henderson in Stemster and Gerston, and had with her a tocher of one thousand merks. He had a son and two daughters :—

1. Benjamin.
1. Esther, who lived with her mother for many years at Halkirk.
2. Janet, better known as "Miss Jenny," who died in Edinburgh at an advanced age.

Benjamin Henderson was tacksman of Clyth, and married his relative, Elizabeth, daughter of James Sutherland of Swiney, a great-great-grand-daughter of William Sutherland of Langwell. He had four sons and six daughters :—

1. John, who was drowned in Wick Bay along with his mother about 1806.
2. Adam, who went to the West Indies.
3. Dr. James, who occupied Clyth for many years, and down to 18—. He carried on a herring fishery extensively, and expended considerable sums on the harbour and farm of Clyth. Before settling in Clyth he was acting assistant-surgeon in the 3d Foot for some years, and afterwards he

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acquired considerable reputation in the north as a medical practitioner. A few years before his death, which took place at Glasgow on 11th April 1848, he took the degree of M.D. at the University of Edinburgh.

4. William was a gentleman of some literary acquirements, and was for many years engaged in various educational establishments in Scotland and England. Ultimately he went to Bombay as a teacher in one of the Church of Scotland schools. At the Disruption, in 1843, he joined the Free Church, but falling into bad health he returned to England, where he died unmarried about 1849 or 1850.

Benjamin Henderson's daughters were Jean, Margaret, Anne, Elizabeth, Jessie, Alexis, and Benjamina, all of whom died unmarried. Alexis, his last surviving daughter, died at Barnstaple on 25th March 1874, and the family is now extinct.

II. David Henderson, the second son, as is supposed, of Donald in Achalibster and wadset lands of Westerdale, got from Lord Glenorchy, in 1708, a charter of the sevenpenny and two farthing and an octo lands of Westerdale. He had a son, Donald.

Donald Henderson of Westerdale married Anne, daughter of Alexander Henderson in Stemster and Gerston. He had a son, Alexander.

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The Hendersons of Achalibster and Westerdale.

Alexander Henderson married Janet Campbell of the Campbells in Ausdale, and had three sons and a daughter :—

1. Donald, who married and left issue, but did not succeed to Westerdale.
2. William, who occupied during his lifetime Upper Westerdale, and died unmarried.
3. David of Westerdale, to which by some family arrangement he got a disposition from his grandfather. He occupied Ballintunich or Lower Westerdale, and died in 1860 unmarried.

1. Elizabeth, who married William Angus, Thurso, and left no issue.

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THE HENDERSONS OF NOTTINGHAM AND GERSAY.

The Hendersons of Nottingham and Gersay.

AFTER the middle of the seventeenth century we find frequent mention of William Henderson of Nottingham, he being the same person who, as William *Rorisone*, married, in 1655, Janet Gordon, relict of James Sutherland of Forse. After her first husband's death Janet Gordon was styled "Lady Nottingham," having, no doubt, had the liferent of these lands, and thus William Henderson was also designed of Nottingham. He appears to have been a person of some substance, from the bonds and obligations to him appearing on the records, and from the traditional account of his family he seems to have been the son of Roderick Henderson (whence his surname of Rorisone), who was the eldest son of Hugh Henderson, one of the portioners who possessed at one time the lands of Brabsterdorran. His contract of marriage is dated 31st January 1655, and in 1676 he obtained a wadset from Lord Glenorchy of the feu and teind duties of Gersay and Coghill in Watten, to himself in liferent and to his son, John, in fee.

By Janet Gordon he had two sons, John and David.

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The Hendersons of Nottingham and Gersay.

As fiar under the wadset in 1676 John was styled of Gersay; and dying without issue, he was succeeded by David.

David Henderson of Gersay married in 1680 Margaret, daughter of Colonel Francis Sinclair in Scrabster (son of John Sinclair, first of Assery) and his wife, Anne, daughter of Francis Sinclair of Stirkoke. In his contract of marriage (June 1680) he is called "lawful son of William Henderson of Nottingham and Janet Gordon."

In 1689 and 1697 he disponed the wadset to Sir Robert Dunbar of Northfield, and of the subsequent history of his family there is no account.

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THE WILLIAMSONS OF BANNISKIRK.

THE ancestor of this family appears to have been Andrew Williamson of Achorlie, who got a feu-charter of these lands from the Earl of Caithness in 1665. He is said to have fought at Aultimarloch, on the side of the Sinclairs, and to have been killed there, and his body carried for burial to Spittal, where the Gunns (from whom the Williamsons are reputed to be descended) had their burial-place.

I. DONALD WILLIAMSON, son of Andrew Williamson of Achorlie, was a merchant in Thurso, and in 1691 and 1692 he was a bailie of the town. He purchased Banniskirk in 1691, and the present estate of Banniskirk includes Achorlie. He married Katharine Rorison, sister of Bailie Rorison, merchant in Thurso, and had a son and a daughter:—

1. Benjamin, his successor.
1. Janet, who, in 1713, married Malcolm Henderson, in Stemster, Reay. He had a son, Adam, who was in Stemster in 1753.

II. BENJAMIN WILLIAMSON OF BANNISKIRK married

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The Williamsons of Banniskirk.

Elizabeth Sutherland, daughter of Esther and Robert Sutherland of Langwell, and had a son and four daughters :—

1. Donald, his successor.
1. Elizabeth, who married William Campbell, sometime in Upper Framside, and had several children, one of whom, the late Donald Campbell, sometime in Harland, entered the army as a volunteer during the Peninsular War, and attained the rank of lieutenant-colonel. He died at Creich, Sutherlandshire, unmarried.
2. Jane, married Lieut. William Rose, Thurso, and had a son, William Rose, a merchant in Glasgow, and three daughters, Elizabeth and Benjaminina, who died unmarried, and Jane, who married Dr. John Williamson.
3. Another daughter married John Dunnet, a shipmaster in Thurso, son of Bailie George Dunnet, merchant in Thurso. They had no issue.
4. Another daughter married, first, Donald Henderson, a merchant in Thurso, and had a son, Benjamin, a messenger-at-arms; and second, John Barnetson, tenant in Galshfield, by whom she had a son, the late Lieutenant Alexander Barnetson, sometime in Mains of Tister.

III. Donald Williamson of Banniskirk married Isabell Ramsay, second daughter of James Ramsay of

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Chappletown of Meigle, merchant in Dundee, and had five sons and four daughters :— The Williamsons of Banniskirk.

1. Benjamin.
2. Major James, who married Barbara Gibson, daughter of George Gibson, merchant in Thurso, and had issue, a son and two daughters.
3. Donald, who died in the West Indies.
4. John, a surgeon in the army, who married Jane Rose, his cousin, but of whom there is no surviving issue.
5. Major George, married Catharine, daughter of James Sinclair of Harpsdale and his third wife, Katharine, daughter of Alexander Sinclair of Lybster. He had three sons and three daughters. The sons were,—Donald, who died unmarried ; James of Banniskirk (which he purchased in 1862), who married Margaret, daughter of David Henderson of Stemster, and died in 1865, leaving two sons ; and George.

1. Margaret, who married John Sutherland of Swiney.
2. Elizabeth, who married John Horne of Stirkoke, and had issue.
3. Isabella, who married Capt. William Manson, and had issue.
4. Jean, who married Alexander Paterson in Pennyland, agent for the Bank of Scotland, and had issue.

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The Williamsons of Banniskirk.

IV. COLONEL BENJAMIN WILLIAMSON OF BANNISKIRK married Janet, daughter of James Sinclair of Harpsdale and his first wife, Marjory, daughter of David Sinclair of Southdun, through whom he got the lands of Scarmclett and Clayock, afterwards named "Marlefield." He had two sons and three daughters:—

1. James, captain in the 94th Regiment. He was killed at the storming of Ciudad-Rodrigo, in Spain.
2. Donald, major in the 42d Regiment. He was killed at Burgos in 1812.

1. Marjory, who married David Henderson of Stemster.
2. Diana, who died unmarried in 1872.
3. Jessie, who married, first, John Macleay of Keiss, and, second, Alexander Henderson of Stemster. She had no issue by either marriage.

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THE TAYLORS OF THURA.

The Taylors of Thura.

WILLIAM TAYLOR, merchant in Thurso, who, about the middle of the seventeenth century, led apprisings against the estate of Assery, had a son, John, who was a joiner in Thurso. John got an assignation to his father's apprisings in Assery. He had two sons:—

1. Daniel.
2. George.

I. DANIEL TAYLOR, merchant in Thurso, was infeft in the Assery apprisings, and in 1754 he purchased Thura from John Sinclair, last of Thura, and disponed it in 1759 to his brother, George.

II. GEORGE TAYLOR OF THURA married Euphemia, daughter of William Honyman of Græmsay, and had two sons and a daughter:—

1. John, his successor.
2. William, who died in the West Indies.

1. Jane, who married Lieutenant M'Beath.

III. JOHN TAYLOR OF THURA was served heir to his

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The Taylors of Thura.

father in 1790, and was captain in one of the Caithness Fencible battalions. In 1801 he sold Thura to William Sinclair of Freswick, and settled in Ireland. He left three children, who, in 1868, resided in Dublin. They were—

1. George.
2. Arthur.
1. Jane.

A Mr. Taylor of Phibsboro House, Dublin, who died lately at an advanced age, was a natural son of Captain John Taylor, last of Thura. He was in early life a schoolmaster in the county; and for many years he had been in the habit of sending communications to the local papers. In 1868 a notice appeared from Captain Taylor's family denying Mr. Taylor's pretensions to be considered "the last of the Taylors of Thura,"—and asserting themselves to be "the only legal representatives of his name."

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THE DAVIDSONS OF ACHINGILLS AND BUCKIES.

JOHN DAVIDSON, Commissary of Caithness, who died before 1632, had two sons :—

1. William, who, in 1632, was served heir to Samuel Davidson, residing in France, son of the deceased Mr. Archibald Davidson, his cousin-german, in the "Fischill in Thurso."
2. John.

JOHN DAVIDSON got a wadset of Achingills from the Master of Berriedale in 1633. In the same year David Munro, then Commissary of Caithness, got a wadset of half of Aimster and Buckies, and in 1659 John Davidson adjudged this wadset from George, son of David Munro; and in 1691 he got a charter of adjudication. He had two sons :—

1. James, his successor.
2. William, who married Janet Scobie. She survived him, and had a liferent of Aimster and Buckies.

JAMES DAVIDSON got an assignation from his father

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The Davidsons of Achingills and Buckies.

of his adjudication of Aimster and Buckies, and he also succeeded to Achingills. In 1697 he disponed the whole to William Sinclair of Stemster, third son of William Sinclair of Dunbeath. He was a writer in Edinburgh, and had a daughter.

In 1675 Buckies was occupied by George Davidson, who is mentioned in that year in the decreet at Mey's instance against the heritors and others of Caithness. The family tradition is that he was of the Achingills Davidsons, and if so, he was probably the son of William Davidson, whose widow had the liferent of Buckies and Aimster. In 1682 he was admitted an elder by the Bishop and Session of Thurso. He was succeeded in the farm by his son, William. In 1700 William Davidson married Isabel Campbell, daughter of Alexander Campbell of Comliefoot, her brothers, Donald Campbell in Stainland, chamberlain to Lord Glenorchy, and John Campbell in Comliefoot, being parties to the contract of marriage. James Davidson succeeded his father, William, and he again was succeeded by his son, the late John Davidson, and thus from at least 1675 Buckies has been continuously occupied by the Davidsons.

In the Old Kirk of Thurso, and in the place where once stood the Buckies pew, there is an ancient and handsome gravestone, now embedded in the soil. At the top there are armorial bearings, with the motto "Vivat post funera virtus," and underneath the following inscription :—

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The Davidsons of Achingills and Buckies.

Heir lyes ane famous man
Adam Davidsoun Burgess of
Inverness Indweller in Thurso
who departed in June 1587
being 66 yeires of age
And heir lyes Katharine
Sinclair his Spous who departed
in May 1592 being 70
yeires of age
Memento
Mori.

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THE GIBSONS.

The Gibsons.

THIS family, originally from Edinburgh, is chiefly connected with Orkney, where several members of it settled as ministers.

JOHN GIBSON, of Edinburgh, had four sons :—

1. Alexander, Dean of Bower and Watten.
2. Adam, minister of Shapinsay from 1665 to 1678, when he died.
3. John, minister of Holm from 1654 to 1681.
4. Archibald, Writer to the Signet, 1660.

ALEXANDER GIBSON, Dean of Bower and Watten from 1668 to 1682, married Katharine, eldest daughter of James Sinclair of Assery, and had four sons and a daughter :—

1. Alexander, minister of Canisbay.
2. John, minister of Evie and Rendall from 1700 to 1724, when he died.
3. Archibald of Hemisgar.
4. George, a merchant, who married Katharine, daughter of Bailie Rorison, Thurso. Before her marriage to Mr. Gibson, Katharine Rorison had

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formed an attachment and engaged herself to John Gow or Smith, a native of Scrabster, whose piratical exploits in the early part of last century suggested Sir Walter Scott's tale of "The Pirate." At what period of Gow's career this love affair took place is uncertain, but at any rate the Bailie disapproved of his daughter's choice, and while Gow was absent at sea, obliged her to listen to the addresses of her future husband, then schoolmaster at Stroma. The marriage had scarcely taken place when Gow returned to Thurso, bringing bridal dresses for his betrothed, who, even as matters then stood, would gladly have gone off with him. Gow departed highly incensed, and after Katharine Rorison had settled down in Stroma, he visited the island with the intention of carrying her off, or having his revenge, but he left again without doing any mischief. She had two sons to Mr. Gibson, and after his death resided at or near Banniskirk, her aunt, Katharine Rorison, having married Donald Williamson, the first Williamson of Banniskirk. These particulars were given to the late Dr. P. B. Henderson by Mrs. Elizabeth Sinclair, widow of the Reverend Alexander Smith, minister of Olrig, who died at Thurso 15th October 1831, aged eighty-eight, and who was personally acquainted with Katharine Rorison. In a note to

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The Gibsons.

"The Pirate" Gow is mentioned as having been a native of Orkney, but this is believed to be incorrect. A narrative of his piratical proceedings will be found in Johnston's "Lives of Highwaymen," and similar chronicles. There are other interesting particulars in the Notes and Advertisement to the "Pirate." In 1725 Gow and several of his associates were convicted at London by the High Court of Admiralty, and deservedly executed.

1. Elizabeth, who married George Sinclair in Brabsterdorran.

Alexander Gibson, the eldest son, was minister of Canisbay from 1713 to 1747, when he died. He married Margaret, daughter of John Sinclair of Rattar, and widow of Alexander Sinclair of Brabster. He had two sons :—

1. John, sometime a writer in Edinburgh, and who, about 1750, was appointed Sheriff-Substitute of the county by Mr. Brodie of Spynie, then Sheriff. He married Margaret, daughter of James Murray of Clairden, and widow of David Sinclair of Southdun, and died without issue.
2. George, a merchant in Thurso, who married Janet Sinclair, daughter of John Sinclair and Elizabeth Manson (*vide* Mansons). He had two daughters,—Margaret, who married her cousin,

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George Sinclair of Brabster, and Barbara, who married Major James Williamson, and had issue a son (who died unmarried), and two daughters.

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THE BRODIES.

The Brodies.

I. In the Matriculation Records of King's College, Aberdeen, there is an entry of "Alexander Brodie, Moraviensis," in 1677, which it is supposed refers to the Reverend Alexander Brodie, who was licensed by the Presbytery of Abernethy in 1711, called, and ordained as minister of Kildonan 18th September 1712, and translated to Reay in 1723, where he died in 1730, leaving a son, James.

II. The Reverend James Brodie was licensed by the Presbytery of Aberdeen, and was settled as minister of Latheron in May 1734. He died at Aberdeen in 1775, in the sixty-seventh year of his age.

In 1735 he married Anne, daughter of James Murray of Clairden and his third wife, Margaret, daughter of George Sinclair of Barrock. She died in 1766. They had six sons and a daughter:—

1. Samuel, born 1736, and died young.
2. Alexander, born 1737.
3. Patrick, born 1743.
4. James, born 1745, and died young.

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5. George, born 1747, and died young.
6. Richard, born 1752.
1. Margaret, born 1739.

III. ALEXANDER BRODIE, the eldest surviving son, was minister of Carnbee, in Fife, and married Helen Pitcairn, daughter of the Reverend Joseph Pitcairn, Carnbee. He died in 1804, having had four sons and three daughters :—

1. James, Brigadier-General and Colonel in the East India Company's Service, Madras, and Commander of the Bath, who was born in 1782, and died in 1831. He married Eliza Thompson, and had two sons: James, who died in 1849, unmarried, and Alexander Oswald, sometime of the Ceylon Civil Service, who married Jessie Anne Spottiswoode, daughter of Colonel Spottiswoode, and died at Edinburgh 6th November 1874, leaving issue.
2. Joseph, a merchant in Hamburg, who married Maria Thomson, and died in 1825, leaving issue.
3. Alexander Oswald, a merchant in America, who married Eustachia Griffiths, and died in Scotland in 1856, without issue.
4. Edward, who died without issue.

1. Janet, who married Duncan Cowan, Edinburgh, and left four daughters: (1) Marjory, unmarried. (2) Janet, who married General Charles Wahab, H.E.I.C.S., and has issue. (3) Helen, who mar-

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The Brodies.

ried Henry Madden, M.D., and left issue. (4) Charlotte, who married James Cowan, Lord Provost of Edinburgh, and M.P. for the city.

2. Elizabeth, who died unmarried.
3. Helen, who married Alexander Cowan, Edinburgh, and left issue.

IV. PATRICK BRODIE, third son of the Reverend James Brodie, Latheron, married, in 1768, Jean Sinclair (*vide* Mansons), and had three sons and five daughters :—

1. David, who purchased Sibster, thereafter named Hopeville, and married Helen, daughter of James Sinclair of Harpsdale, and his third wife, Katharine, daughter of Alexander Sinclair of Lybster. He died in 1847, aged 75. He had five sons and five daughters.
2. James, who died young.
3. Alexander, who married Flora, daughter of Bailie Kenneth Sutherland, Thurso, and had five sons and five daughters. He died in 1859, aged 82.

1. Jean, who married the Reverend George Mackenzie, Olrig, and had issue. She died in 1802, aged 33.
2. Janet, who died young.
3. Margaret, who died unmarried, in 1856, aged 82.
4. Anne, who was born 28th February 1779, and who died in 1813. She was married to William Henderson, Sheriff-Substitute of Caithness, and had seven sons and five daughters.

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5. Elizabeth, who married William Manson, writer in Thurso, and died, without issue, in 1832, aged 50. The Brodies.

V. Dr. Richard Brodie, the youngest son of the Reverend James Brodie, went to the West Indies, where he died.

VI. Margaret, the only daughter, married John Grant of Latheronwheel, of which he was wadsetter. She died without issue.

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THE MANSONS.

The Mansons.

THIS name is of frequent occurrence in the county and in remote times. Thus we have Kenneth, Donald, and William Manson, the three portioners of the whole of Lyth, by charter in 1524; and there are Mansons, portioners of Kirk in 1531, at which date John and Magnus Manson got a charter[1] of confirmation from the Pope's Legate, Silvester Darius. In 1576 the Mansons were of some note, a number of the name having signed a bond of manrent to George Sinclair of Mey. These notes, however, are confined to a more recent branch of the family, and the pedigree now given was proved in Chancery in 1853, in a suit at the instance of Mr. Anderson, executor of Margaret Manson of London, against her next-of-kin.

James Manson, who resided in Watten, had five sons and two daughters:—

1. Alexander.
2. William.
3. John.
4. David.
5. Charles, who died at sea.

[1] Charter, Andrew, B. of Caithness.

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1. Elizabeth.
2. Christian, who died unmarried.

I. ALEXANDER MANSON was a merchant in Thurso, and married Elizabeth Munro. As appears from a tombstone to his memory in the Oswalds' burying-ground in Thurso churchyard, he died in 17—. He had a son:—

James, a merchant in Rotterdam, who was born in 1726, and died in 1788. He married Margaret Gay, by whom he had a son, William, who died at Curaçoa in 1801, without issue; and a daughter, Margaret, who died in London in June 1849. She is the person referred to above, whose succession gave rise to the Chancery suit.

II. WILLIAM MANSON was a merchant in Rotterdam, and died a bachelor in London, in July 1767. Under his settlement the descendants of his sisters were beneficiaries.

III. JOHN MANSON was a ship-carpenter at Rotherhithe, and married Ursula Cobham. He died in 1772, having had two sons and a daughter:—

1. Alexander, a shipwright at Bermondsey, who married Jean Bowie, and died in 1828. He had four sons and a daughter. The sons were: John and Robert, who both died in India in 1818; David, who died young, and Alexander, Brigadier-

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The Mansons.

General in the Bombay Artillery, who died at Bombay in 1862. Alexander had three children: Alexander R. Manson, major in the 4th Bombay Infantry; Charles James Manson, Acting Political Agent, South Mahratta Country, who was killed in the Indian Mutiny, in May 1859, at Ramdroag; and Mary Anne Jane, who was married to Major Alexander Cunningham Robertson of the 8th Regiment.

2. William, who married Mary Gregory, and died in 1840, aged 88. He had a son, John Jasper, who died in 1826 leaving issue,—and a daughter, Mary Ursula, who died in 1777.
1. Mary, who married William Lang, and died in 1838.

IV. DAVID MANSON was a merchant in Thurso, and married Jean, daughter of George Oswald, minister of Dunnet. He died without issue.

V. ELIZABETH MANSON married John Sinclair in Watten, and had four daughters:—

1. Isabella Sinclair, who married David Bruce in Hastigrow, a descendant no doubt of the Bruces who owned the lands of Hastigrow and others in that locality in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. They had two sons, William and David, who both died in America, and five

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daughters, of whom Jean and Katharine died unmarried; Janet Bruce married Neil Sutherland, and had a son, William, who married Miss M'Kay, daughter of the Reverend Mr. M'Kay, minister of Reay; Elizabeth Bruce married George Gunn, and had issue; and Isabella Bruce married Patrick Andrew, and had a daughter, Isabella, who died unmarried, and a son, William Patrick, now Chairman of the Scinde and Punjab Railway, who is married to a grand-daughter of the eminent painter, Sir Henry Raeburn, and has issue.

2. Elizabeth Sinclair, who married John Manson, and had a son, William, and four daughters. William Manson married Isabella, daughter of Donald Williamson of Banniskirk. He had issue, and died in 1846. Jean and Isabella died unmarried. Elizabeth, who died in 1805, married Donald Robeson, writer in Thurso, and had four sons—John, William, Alexander, and Donald, and a daughter, Margaret. John Robeson married in India Miss Dunbar, daughter of Captain Dunbar of Westfield, and left a daughter. The other sons died unmarried. Margaret Robeson, the only daughter, married her cousin, Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Sinclair Sutherland of Brabster, and died in 1869 without surviving issue. Anne Manson, fourth daughter of Elizabeth Sinclair, married

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The Mansons.

Morrison Snody, writer in Thurso, and died without issue in 1846.

3. Jean Sinclair, who married Patrick Brodie in Ulbster, and had issue.—*Vide* Brodies.
4. Janet Sinclair, who married George Gibson (*vide* Gibsons), and had two daughters—Margaret, who married George Sinclair Sutherland of Brabster; and Barbara, who married Major James Williamson, and had a son and two daughters.

Mr. Alexander Brodie and his sister, Margaret, the only surviving children of Jean Sinclair, stood in the same degree of relationship to Margaret Manson of London as did General Manson, and the three were preferred, as next-of-kin, to Miss Manson's intestate succession, but the bulk of her estate was settled by will.

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THE NICOLSONS OF SHEBSTER.

The Nicolsons of Shebster.

The Reverend Alexander Nicolson, son of Patrick Nicolson, minister of Kiltarlity, was minister of Thurso from 1752 to 1785, when he died, aged 61. He acquired Shebster, which for several generations had belonged to the Munros, by purchase. He was twice married—first in 1754, and secondly in 1765. By his first wife he had two sons:—

1. Patrick, his successor.
2. Dr. James Nicolson.

His second wife was Mary, daughter of Patrick Honyman of Græmsay, who died in 1817, aged 89. By her he had a daughter, Jessie, who was twice married—first, to Alexander M'Leod of Lynegar, son of Donald M'Leod, sometime writer, thereafter Sheriff-Substitute of Caithness (son of —— M'Leod, musician in Thurso). They had a son, David, who died young, and two daughters—Mary, who died young, and Jemima, who married Mr. Hepburn of St. Vincent, who died in 1868, leaving issue.

Jessie Nicolson was married, secondly, to William Sinclair, writer in Thurso, by whom she had two sons—

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The Nicolsons of Shebster.

Alexander, accountant in Edinburgh, who died without issue, and Gordon, who died in the West Indies, also without issue.

PATRICK NICOLSON OF SHEBSTER was minister of Thurso from his father's death in 1785 down to 1805. He married, in 1787, Mary Maxwell, daughter of Captain Thomas Dunbar of Westfield and his first wife, Janet, daughter of Sir William Dunbar of Hempriggs. She died in 1806, and by her he had two sons and four daughters:—

1. Alexander, who sold Shebster in 1808, with consent of his curators, and died without issue.
2. Major Malcolm, who married his cousin, Jessie, daughter of James Moodie of Melsetter, by whom he had a son. By a second marriage he had several children.

1. Janet Dunbar, who married Dr. Featherstone, and had issue.
2. Mary, who married Major Jackson.
3. Isabella, who married Dr. Simon Nicolson, and had issue.
4. Margaret, who married Lieutenant-Colonel Western, and had issue.

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THE GUNNS.

A DETAILED notice of the Clan Gunn is beyond the scope of these notes: for such we must refer to Gordon and other authorities; nor shall the debatable question be entered upon, whether their ancestor was Gunnius, brother of Sweyn, the Freswick pirate, or Guin, son of Olave, king of Man. By the most credible accounts, they are of Norwegian origin, and it is at least certain that they settled in Caithness at a remote date, and in course of time so increased in numbers as to have attained to the position of "The Clan Gunn." The Gunns seem to have occupied chiefly the highland portions of the county, although their burial-place was at Spittal. Their connection with Caithness as a distinct clan ended about 1619. It is singular that, until the middle of the seventeenth century, we find no written evidence of their tenure of land. Probably, as in the case of Donald Gunn of Braemore, noticed in "Ministers and Men in the Far North," what possessions they had were "gained by the sword," and retained by the same title during their period of prosperity. The Gunns

George Gunn was chief of the clan in the fifteenth

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The Gunns. century, and lived at the castle of Harberry, in Clyth. This chieftain was popularly styled the "Cruner Gunn," from his holding the office of "Cruner" or "Crouner" of the district, an ancient office which empowered the holder to attach the persons of offenders against the Crown. By his clansmen and highlanders generally he was known as the "Nin Braistack-more," from the great silver brooch worn by him as a badge of office.

He is reputed to have had seven sons, of whom four, along with himself, fell in 1464, in a combat with the Keiths, their hereditary foes. Of these sons, James succeeded to the chieftainship; Robert, the second son, is ancestor of the Gunns of Braemore and other respectable families; from John, the third son, are descended the Gunns of Dalmore and Dale, and others; Henry, the fourth son, is the traditional ancestor of the Caithness Hendersons; and William, the fifth son, of the Williamsons and Wilsons. James has been supposed to be the fifth son; but it appears certain that on his father's death in 1464 he took up the chieftainship, and that he, along with his brothers, William and Henry, retired into Sutherlandshire; and at Killearnan, in Kildonan, the succeeding chiefs had their residence until the accidental destruction of the mansion-house by fire in 1690.

That there was a "Crouner" in the county at a remote period, whether of the Clan Gunn or not, is shown by part of the names still attached to certain localities,—for instance, the "Crouner's Garden," near Strath, and

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the like; while in an ancient document, entitled "Inventar of the Gudes of Alexander Southerland, 1456" (father-in-law of William St. Clair, first Earl of Caithness), there are entries proving the "Crouner" to have had a son Henry, and a son Alexander, thus: "Item, Alexander the Crouner's son an (owing) me for the teind of Dael, Thurno, and the begyn, with uther geeds that he tuk of myn that comes to 24 of Marks and mair;" and "Item, *Henry* the Crounars son an me for tends and ky (teinds and cattle) that he tuk of myn 40 merks and mar, as vitail (victual) was sold in the countrie that tym." The Gunns.

In 1664 John Gunn appears to have been in possession of Braemore, under the peaceful title of a written lease from the Earl of Caithness, at a rent of £490 Scots. It is said that a section of the clan claimed the chieftainship for this John, but that, on a formal discussion of the question at a meeting in Thurso, the honour was adjudged to a rival candidate.

John Gunn in Braemore obtained in 1664 a wadset over that estate, for 1000 merks, from John, Earl of Breadalbane. He appears to have lived down to at least 1698, for in that year his son and successor, George, is designed in a tack of Dirlot as "Younger of Braemore."

In 1715 George Gunn got another tack of Braemore from Lord Glenorchy, reserving the "salmond fishings with the deer and Rae;" and in the same year he obtained a wadset for 3000 merks.

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The Gunns.

In 1732 George Gunn got a wadset for 17,000 merks from Sir James Sinclair of Dunbeath. Sir James acquired Braemore in 1729 as part of the Caithness estate purchased by him and Ulbster from Lord Glenorchy.

The representatives of this branch of the Gunns appear to be the Gunn-Munroes of Poyntzfield. The first Sir George Gunn Munro of Poyntzfield was a son of the Reverend John Munro, minister of Halkirk, by his wife, Janet Munro, only child of George Gunn of Braemore.

The genealogy of the Gunns of Braemore is stated by the Rev. Mr. Gunn of Watten, who has given much attention to the subject, to be as follows :—

1. Robert, second son of George Gunn, "the Crounar" (killed in 1464).
2. Donald, his eldest son.
3. David, his eldest son.
4. Alexander, his eldest son, who married Christian, daughter of Donald, first Lord Reay.
5. John, his eldest son.
6. George, his eldest son.
7. Janet, his only child, married John Munro, minister of Halkirk, who died in 1743 or 1746. His third son was the first Munro of Poyntzfield.
8. Captain John Gunn Munro, eldest son of Janet Munro, married Elizabeth Sutherland of Torboll, and had three sons and four daughters. In 1752 he acquired Braemore in fee-simple.

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9. William Gunn Munro, eldest son, had no family, and was succeeded by his brother. The Gunns.

10. George Gunn Munro succeeded his brother in Braemore, and also inherited Poyntzfield under an entail executed by his uncle, Sir George, in 1784. In 1793 Sir Robert Anstruther purchased Braemore for about £4000 at a judicial sale, and obtained a decreet of sale in his favour.

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THE DOULLS OF THUSTER.

The Doulls of Thuster.

JOHN DOULL OF THUSTER, Wick, got a wadset of these lands in 1650, and in a tack of the teinds of Forse granted to him by the Bishop in 1685, he is designed "Servitor to the Earl of Caithness." He married Grizzel, daughter of John Sinclair, first of Assery, and had a son, John.

John Doull was, in 1678, "Servitor" to Sir Robert Sinclair of Longformacus, advocate, and as such he was probably merely an "advocate's clerk." He practised as a writer for many years in Edinburgh, and had a considerable business connection with the county. He had one son at least, and two daughters:—

1. Patrick Doull of Winterfield.
   1. Mary, who was the third wife of George, third Lord Reay, and who is mentioned in "Burke" as daughter of John Dowell, Esq. They had two sons and four daughters.
   2. Margaret, who married Major William Sinclair of Thura.

In 1696 there was a William Doull, a writer in Edinburgh, who, it is supposed, was a son of John Doull. In 1677 John had granted a disposition of subjects in Wick

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to Robert Calder and his son, John, by his wife, Anne Doull; and in 1696 William Doull granted another disposition of the same property. The Doulls of Thuster.

There were other Doulls in Wick connected, it is thought, with the Doulls of Thuster, of whom several intermarried with the Calders in Wick.

Patrick Doull of Oldfield, near Thurso, and his brother, Benjamin, Commissary Clerk of Caithness, were also connected with Wick. Benjamin died unmarried before 1780. Patrick was a merchant in Thurso, and married Mary, daughter of Robert Sinclair of Geise. His last surviving son, Alexander, an officer in the navy or marines, perished in India in 1781, by the blowing up of his ship.

Patrick and Benjamin Doull had at least two sisters, —Mrs. Elizabeth Doull, and Janet, who married James Calder, merchant in Wick, whose son, Benjamin, in Mountpleasant, Thurso, and of the Customs, was father of the late General Patrick Doull Calder of the Royal Engineers.

Grizzel Doull, a niece of Patrick Doull of Oldfield, married David Andrew, and had a son, Patrick, whose only son, Sir William Patrick Andrew, is Chairman of the Scinde and Punjab Railway.

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THE GORDONS OF SWINEY.

The Gordons of Swiney.

CHARLES GORDON, ancestor of this family, "having acquired considerable means by a long course of industry," purchased the estate of Pulrossie, in Sutherlandshire. This property he sold to Mr. Dempster of Skibo, and in 1789 he purchased the estate of Swinzie or Swiney from Captain Patrick Sinclair of Durran, as administrator for his son, Patrick Sinclair Sutherland of Swinzie, for £5500. The conveyance was taken to his eldest son, Lieutenant John Gordon, who was thus the first Gordon of Swiney.

John Gordon had five sons and two daughters:—

1. Lieutenant John Gordon, who had a son, John.
2. Dr. M'Kay Gordon, who settled in South America.
3. Charles.
4. George.
5. William.

1. Mrs. Young.
2. Mrs. Gunn, Risgill.

Under an entail executed by Mr. Gordon, he was succeeded by his natural son, Major-General James Gordon of Munsary, who died unmarried in 1867. Upon his death the succession opened up to John Gordon's

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great-grandson, descended from his eldest son, Lieutenant John Gordon. The Gordons of Swiney.

John M'Kay Gordon of Swiney, grandson of Lieutenant John Gordon by his only son, John, died soon after his succession unmarried, and was succeeded by his brother, George Montagu.

George Montagu Gordon of Swiney sold the estate in 1877 to the Duke of Portland.

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THE KENNEDYS OF STROMA.[1]

The Kennedys of Stroma.

In 1659 John Kennedy, designed as sometime elder of Kermucks, got from the Earl of Caithness a

[1] In the MS. diary of Bishop Robert Forbes, who visited Caithness in 1762, there is the following statement regarding Stroma and the Kennedys:—

"This island is famous for having dead bodies of men, women, and children, above ground, entire, and to be seen for 70 or 80 years, free of all corruption, without embalming or any art whatsoever, but owing, it is thought, to the plenty of nitre that is there. The bodies become very brownish with length of time, but so that the visage is discernible by any friend or acquaintance that ever had seen the person alive. I looked over the ferry of two miles (from John o' Groat's) often to the burial-place close upon the shore of Stroma, which is a small house like a dovecote, the roof being now off and the door broken to pieces, for being informed that the bodies were now under ground I did not cross the ferry to view it. This little repository for the dead was built by one Dr. Kennedy of Cairnmuck, as they term it in Caithness, but I take it to be Kenmuck, as there is such a place in Aberdeenshire, from which country it is said he fled to Stroma for homicide, having killed one Forbes of the family of Foveran. Upon this island the doctor made out a small habitation for himself by building a snug house of two stories and well slated, and he ordered his body to be deposited in the little house which he had erected for that purpose, standing by itself. His body was to be seen here for many years, and would have been so still had it not been for his son, Murdoch Kennedy, who played such wretched tricks on the body of his father, for the diversion of strangers, as in time broke it to pieces. He used to place strangers at his father's feet, and by setting a foot on one of his father's, made the body spring up speedily and salute them, which surprised them greatly. Then after laying the body down again, he beat a march upon the belly which sounded equally loud with a drum. William Sutherland of Wester particularly informed me that about forty years ago (about 1700), he was in Murdoch's house, the same built by his father, and with him

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wadset of his lands in Stroma, including the Nethertown of Stroma, and the family of the Kennedys remained in possession until 1721. The Kennedys of Stroma.

John Kennedy appears to have been a grandson of Lady Buchollie, and to have married Janet, eldest daughter of William Forbes of Craigievar. The wadset of Stroma was taken to him and his wife. He had several children.

In 1672 Margaret and Jean Kennedy, two of his daughters, disponed portions of the wadset to "John Kennedy, elder of Stroma;" and in 1685 John Kennedy, "younger of Kermucks," disponed the Nethertown of Stroma to John, "elder of Stroma," and his wife, Jean M'Kenzie, sister of Sir Alexander M'Kenzie of Broomhill.

The connection between the three John Kennedys, namely, John, "sometime elder of Kermucks," John, "elder of Stroma," and John, "younger of Kermucks," does not appear, but John Kennedy, elder of Stroma, seems to have acquired the whole wadset lands, and to have conveyed them in 1687 and 1688 to his brother-in-law, Sir Alexander M'Kenzie. In 1713 Sir Alexander disponed the Nethertown of Stroma to his nephew, Murdoch Kennedy, son of John, and about 1721 the lands were acquired by William Sinclair of Freswick.

went to the burying-place, where he witnessed him thus beating a march, and saw several other bodies entire, particularly some bodies of children, hanging by nails and pins upon the walls like dried haddocks, as he termed it. Wester's son (John Sutherland), a married man, told me that only about twelve years ago (1750) he was in Stroma and saw then Dr. Kennedy's body entire."

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THE SINCLAIRS OF KIRK AND MYRELANDHORN.

The Sinclairs of Kirk and Myrelandhorn.

In 1592 Henry Sinclair in Canisbay got a charter from the Earl of Caithness of part of Kirk and Myrelandhorn. In 1582 there is mention in the Earl of Caithness' testament of Henry Sinclair, his servitor, who may have been the Henry Sinclair of 1592. Henry Sinclair of Kirk had two sons :—

1. James.
2. David in Olrig.

James Sinclair got a charter from his father in 1627, and was succeeded by his brother, David.

David Sinclair, only lawful brother, got a precept of *clare constat* in 1667, and was succeeded by his son, John.

John Sinclair got a disposition from his father in 1669, and a charter of *novo-damus* from the Bishop in 1680. John Sinclair was "servitor to Sir William Sharp, Keeper of the Signet," and he seems afterwards to have been a merchant in Edinburgh.

In 1643 William Sinclair, elder, merchant in Thurso, got a wadset from James Sinclair, and had a son, Thomas,

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who again had a son, William. They adjudged Kirk and Myreland, and in 1680 William Sinclair disponed these lands to John Sinclair, who sold them to John Sinclair of Barrock. Nisbet mentions the arms of "Thomas Sinclair, lawful son to William Sinclair, merchant in Thurso, of the family of Caithness." These may have been the same Sinclairs who apprised Kirk and Myreland, and who may have been connected with the Sinclairs descended from Henry Sinclair in Canisbay, who got the lands from the Earl of Caithness.

The Sinclairs of Kirk and Myrelandhorn.

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THE SUTHERLANDS OF WESTER.

The Sutherlands of Wester.

In 1633 John, Master of Berriedale, granted to Mr. John Stewart, minister of Wick, a wadset of the lands of Wester or Westerloch and North Kilimster. This wadset was acquired by—

1. William Sutherland (of the family of Sutherland of Forse and of Langwell), who was the eldest son of David Sutherland in Ausdale (third son of William Sutherland or M'Ean, first of Langwell), and Catharine Polson, his first wife, as appears from a bond of provision in his favour by his father, dated in 1697.[1]

2. John Sutherland of Wester succeeded his father, William, and married Anne, daughter of Alexander Innes (the younger brother of Harry Innes of Sandside), and died about the end of last century, leaving a son, Alexander, and five daughters.

[1] From the MS. diary of Bishop Robert Forbes it appears that on his visit to Caithness in 1762 he saw William Sutherland of Wester, of whom he speaks highly, describing him as a man of reading, who had been bred to the sea and seen much of the world. He states himself to have been hospitably entertained by the "honest old Trojan and his wife, sister to the Rev. John MacLachlan's first wife, Betty Sutherland." At this period Wester's son and successor, John, was married and had children, two of whom were confirmed by the Bishop.

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The Sutherlands of Wester.

3. Alexander Sutherland of Wester was in early life an officer in the army, and his father having left his affairs in an involved condition, he was reduced to a state of poverty, and died about 1821. The reversion or right to redeem the wadset had been acquired by the Hempriggs family, on the sale of the Caithness estates, and after much litigation with Sir Benjamin Dunbar, Alexander Sutherland gave up possession of North Kilimster, and took a lease of Wester at a rent equal to the interest of the wadset sum, payment of which was postponed for many years. It was ultimately paid to the Sandside family, who had come to be in right of it.

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MAJOR-GENERAL ST. CLAIR.

Major-General St. Clair.

In November 1870 the late Dr. Mill, then senior magistrate of Thurso, received a letter from the Secretary of the Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, Ohio, asking information regarding the early life and parentage of Arthur St. Clair, described as a distinguished American officer, who died in 1818, and for whose biography the Society was collecting materials. The Secretary stated that the General was born at Thurso in 1734, that he went to America in 1754 or 1755 with Admiral Boscawen, that he joined the army in one or other of these years, that he was the second son of his father, and had received a good education, and was believed to have studied medicine, but had abandoned it. He was further said to have corresponded with relatives, including the late Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster, in Thurso and Edinburgh.

From a copy of the *New York Daily Tribune*, of 28th April last, we observe that under the title of "The St. Clair Papers," a memorial of the General, in two volumes, has been published containing lengthened notices of his services, and of the stirring events in which he was

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engaged in America from 1755 to 1763; in the American Revolution, and in the Indian wars of the South-west. Major-General St. Clair.

In regard to the General's birthplace and early history, the *Tribune* states that he was "born of a noble family in the town of Thurso, Caithness, Scotland, in the year 1734. He studied at the University of Edinburgh as a preparation for professional life, and was indentured to the famous physician, William Hunter of London. But he had inherited the martial temper of his race, and at twenty-three he abandoned medicine for an ensign's commission in the Royal Regiment of Foot."

On receipt of the communication to Dr. Mill in 1870, referred to, an endeavour was made to trace the General's family in Caithness. In searching the Kirk Session books of Thurso, the register of baptisms does not record any Arthur Sinclair in 1734; but on 24th March 1736 there is the following entry: "William Sinclair, merchant in town, had his son Arthur (who was born about five o'clock in the afternoon of the preceding day) baptized by the Rev. Mr. William Innes, minister here."

At this period there was in Thurso William Sinclair, merchant, a grandson of James Sinclair, second laird of Assery, whose father, John, first of Assery, was a son of Sir James Sinclair of Murkle, of the Caithness family. Possibly, then, General St. Clair may have been the son of William Sinclair, merchant in Thurso. Admiral Boscawen sailed for America in 1758, and if the General accompanied him, as he is said to have done, and was

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Major-General St. Clair.

born in 1736, he would be then about twenty-two years of age, and the *Tribune* states his age to have been twenty-three when he got his commission.

If General St. Clair was, as is supposed above, of the family of Sinclairs of Assery, there would be relationship with Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster, although very distant, by the marriage of George Sinclair of Assery, the General's grand-uncle, to a lady of the Ulbster family.

The following extracts are from the article in the *Tribune* above referred to:—

"He was with Amherst at Louisburg, where he won by his gallantry promotion to the rank of lieutenant, and under Wolfe the following year he carried the British colours on the Plains of Abraham. After the siege of Quebec he married a daughter of the Bayards of Boston, who brought him a dowry of £14,000 inherited from her maternal grandfather, James Bowdoin. In 1764 he removed with his young wife to a fine landed estate in the picturesque Ligonier Valley of Western Pennsylvania, where several Scotch families of consequence had already settled. Here he filled a number of prominent civil positions, and took an active part in the boundary disputes between Pennsylvania and Virginia. A man like St. Clair, with a military reputation and distinguished in civil life, could not long remain in obscurity as the spirit of resistance against the mother country gathered head in the colonies, and in December 1775 he resigned his civil offices, took leave of his wife and children, and as the event proved, of his fortune, and repaired to Philadelphia on a summons from President Hancock. In January he raised a regiment, and in May he reached Quebec at a critical time, and covered the retreat of the

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imperilled army. Through the disastrous days which followed Colonel St. Clair rendered efficient service until the wearied, weakened, plague-smitten and demoralised forces were brought into camp on the banks of Lake Champlain. On the 9th of August 1776 St. Clair was made a Brigadier-General by Congress, and later in the year was ordered to leave the Northern Department and join Washington in the Jerseys. During the trials and hardships of the dark winter which followed, when the genius of Washington shone out so brightly at last, St. Clair was one of the faithful and trusted advisers of the Commander-in-chief, and took a conspicuous part in the operations which were crowned with triumph at Trenton and Princeton. It was in recognition of his distinguished services in this campaign that he was commissioned a Major-General in February, and assigned once more to command in the North. On the 12th of June he took command of Ticonderoga, and was subjected to much cruel censure for abandoning that post twenty-four days later, when his works were commanded by the guns of the enemy nearly 8000 strong, against less than half that number of his own ill equipped and worse armed troops. The skilful retreat from Ticonderoga was followed as a natural sequence by the decisive victory at Saratoga, and St. Clair, although suspended for a time from command, became a member of Washington's military family. He participated in the battle of Brandywine, shared the sufferings at Valley Forge, was a member of the court-martial which tried André, and the closing days of the war found him marching to the support of Greene in South Carolina. Equally efficient in civil and military life, he was elected President of Congress and Governor of the North-western Territory, a post which he held for fourteen years, and under his administrative control the broad foundations of coming States were securely laid and established in the freedom and education guaranteed by the

Major-General St. Clair.

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Major-General St. Clair.

great charter. He was removed in 1802 by President Madison, and returned to Pennsylvania in his old age, to find his fortunes wasted, while the Government which he had served pleaded the statute of limitations to escape reimbursing him for money advanced to prevent Washington's army from melting away. He had become responsible while administering Indian affairs for certain supplies, and this amount was also refused, at first on the ground of an informality in his accounts, and when this was rectified, the statute was pleaded once more. His property, a valuable one for those times, was finally forced to a sale, and the old soldier and his family were reduced to want. In a log house on a bleak ridge by the side of the old State road from Bedford to Pittsburg, and almost in sight of the broad acres which once were his, Lewis Cass found him at the age of fourscore supporting his family by selling 'supplies' to the wagoners who travelled that highway. One day in August 1818, when eighty-four years old, he was discovered lying insensible by the side of a rough and lonely road, where he had fallen from his wagon while on the way to a neighbouring town to procure some flour and other necessaries. He never rallied from the shock, and died on the last day of summer."

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LIST OF HERITORS AND WADSETTERS.

List of Heritors and Wadsetters.

THE following List of Heritors and Wadsetters in the county of Caithness in the seventeenth century is taken chiefly from a Decreet obtained in 1675, by Sinclair of Mey, against the Heritors and Inhabitants of the Earldom :—

William Budge of Toftingall.
William Budge of Easterdale.
William Bruce of Stanstill.
John Bruce of Ham.
David Bruce of Lyth.
John Bruce of Hastigrow.
William Bruce of Seater.
David Coghill of that Ilk.
James Cunningham of Brownhill.
Donald Campbell of Lybster.
Patrick Buey Campbell of Quoycrook.
Alexander Campbell of Comliefoot.
Laurence and Charles Calder of Lynegar.
Laurence and William Calder of Galshfield.
Alexander Calder of Newton.
Alexander Calder in Strath.
Marcus Calder in Strath.
Alexander Calder of Holland.
Andrew Calder, Portioner of Banniskirk.

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List of Heritors and Wadsetters.

Donald Calder of Achahoy.
David Caldell or Calder of Scouthel.
William Dunbar of Hempriggs.
John Davidson of Achingills.
John Doull of Thuster.
Donald Groat of Warse.
Malcolm Groat, Portioner of Duncansbay.
Finlay Groat, Portioner of Duncansbay.
George Gunn of Braemore.
William Henderson of Nottingham.
David Henderson of Gersay.
John Henderson, Portioner of Brabsterdorran.
Donald Henderson of Achalibster.
George Innes of Oust.
Walter Innes of Skaill.
William Innes of Isauld.
Robert Innes of Shebster.
James Innes of Sandside.
James Innes of Thursater.
James Innes of Borrowstown.
John Kennedy of Stroma.
James Murray of Pennyland.
David Murray of Clairden.
Richard Murray of Scotscalder.
Robert Munro of Borlum.
Magnus Mowat of Buchollie.
Alexander Mowat of Swinzie.
Donald Manson, Portioner of Dunnet.
George Mearns of Occumster.
George Sutherland of Forse.
William Sutherland of Langwell.

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List of Heritors and Wadsetters.

Sir William Sinclair of Mey.
Alexander Sinclair of Stemster.
David Sinclair of Southdun.
William Sinclair of Dunn.
James Sinclair of Lybster.
John Sinclair of Brims.
James Sinclair of Stangergill.
Robert Sinclair of Duren.
George Sinclair of Olrig.
George Sinclair of Barrock.
James Sinclair of Freswick.
James Sinclair of Assery.
William Sinclair of Forsie.
William Sinclair of Thura.
Francis Sinclair of Stirkoke.
William Sinclair of Dunbeath.
Alexander Sinclair of Telstane.
William Sinclair of Gillock.
James Sinclair of Ausdale.
John Sinclair of Brabster.
George Sinclair of Forss.
John Sinclair of Ulbster.
Sir George Sinclair of Clyth.
John Sinclair of Rattar.
William Sinclair of Hoy.
John Sinclair of Murkle.
John Sinclair of Hollandmake.
Alexander Sinclair of Dalganachan.
William Younger of Dwarick.
Andrew Williamson of Achorlie.
Donald Williamson of Banniskirk.

Ex. E. W. F.

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